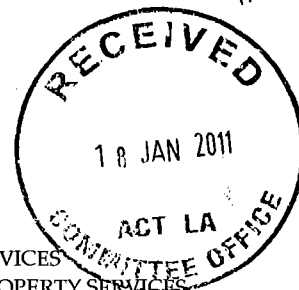




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MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

2009-10 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

QUESTION ON NOTICE PPWTMS 1

Ms Porter – to ask the Minister for the Arts and Heritage:

In relation to Aboriginal Heritage:

1. What issues were considered by the Aboriginal Heritage Taskforce in 2009-10?
2. What are the current Aboriginal Heritage projects that the Heritage Unit has been working on?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Aboriginal Heritage Taskforce reviews all decisions related to Aboriginal issues made by the Heritage Council.

Conservation management plans are referred by the developers or archaeologists to the Heritage Council, through the Heritage Unit, for review and comment.

The Heritage Unit reviews development applications and conservation management plans on a regular basis and formulates Heritage Council advice for approval. In addition to this the Heritage Unit is currently working towards the formulation of both statutory and operational guidelines for the conservation of Aboriginal places in the ACT, on behalf of the Heritage Council. The aim of these guidelines will be to further clarify for developers and consultants the way in which the Act is administered by the Heritage Council and the Heritage Unit.

The Heritage Council also makes advice to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna regarding the potential heritage impact of a variety of proposed developments.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Other Aboriginal heritage projects that the Heritage Unit is working on include the administration of Heritage Grants that relate to Aboriginal issues, and the further development and conservation of heritage precincts related to Aboriginal heritage.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for the Arts and Heritage



Date:.....

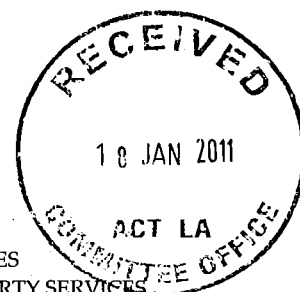
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MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

2009-10 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

QUESTION ON NOTICE PPWTMS 2

Ms Porter – to ask the Minister for the Arts and Heritage:

In relation to Aboriginal Heritage:

Has the consultation about the proposed Guidelines for the Management of Aboriginal Heritage in the ACT resumed now that the review of the Heritage Act has been completed?

1. If yes, who will be consulted, when will the consultation conclude and will the findings be made public?
2. If not, what is the process planned for developing and consulting on the Guidelines for the Management of Aboriginal Heritage?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Consultation regarding the Guidelines for the Management of Aboriginal Heritage has not yet resumed following the completion of the ACT Heritage Act Review by Duncan Marshall. This review and its recommendations are currently being considered by the ACT Government in preparation for a final response. It is inappropriate to undertake consultation on the guidelines prior to the Government finalising its response to the review. Nonetheless, the Aboriginal Taskforce, in association with the Heritage Unit, is continuing to refine the currently drafted guidelines so that when the time is suitable for public consultation this can be enacted as soon as possible.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for the Arts and Heritage

Date: 14/11.....

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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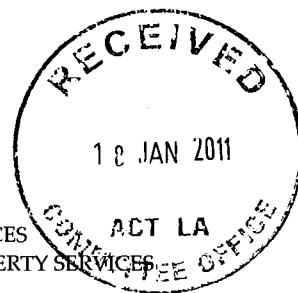
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MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

2009-10 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

QUESTION ON NOTICE PPWTMS 3

Ms Porter – to ask the Minister for the Arts and Heritage:

In relation to Aboriginal Heritage:

How many of the backlog of the 230 historic places and objects nominated on the Heritage Register are Aboriginal heritage places and objects?

1. Of these, how many has the Heritage Council consulted with the RAO on?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

It should be noted that, in contrast to the historic heritage places, the inclusion of Aboriginal sites on the Heritage Register is not necessary in order to afford protection under the *Heritage Act 2004*. Under Section 75 of the Act it is an offence to damage *any* Aboriginal place or object without adhering to the specific exemptions listed in Section 76.

Ten of the backlog of nominations to the Heritage Register relate to Aboriginal heritage places and objects.

The draft citation for provisional registration of Red Hill Ochre Quarry is currently being prepared for consideration at the next Heritage Council meeting. Although consultation with the Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs) has not yet been finalised regarding the nomination process, there has been on-going consultation between the Heritage Council/Unit, the RAOs and other stakeholders regarding the management and development of this site.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for the Arts and Heritage

Date: 14/11.....

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 4 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. How many ‘affordable’ homes were sold in 2009-10?
2. What was the typical size of these homes?
3. What is now considered to be an affordable home, in terms of cost, size, (inc number of bedrooms, size of yard and overall size of house)

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. The following table outlines home sales across the total Canberra real estate market for 2009/10.

	Number of Homes Sold	Proportion of All Sales
Sales less than \$300,000	533	6%
Sales less than \$328,000 (ACT Government’s Affordable Home Purchase Threshold)	940	10%
Sales less than \$350,000	1,584	16%
Sales less than \$400,000	3,308	34%
Sales less than \$450,000	5,023	52%
Sales less than \$500,000	6,158	64%
Total Sales	9,680	

- 247 Affordable homes were offered to the market by the Land Development Agency’s OwnPlace scheme, all at approximately \$300,000.
- 149 homes in Macgregor West 1 were sold by the Village Building Company for less than \$400,000.
- Three homes were sold in each of Crace Stage 1 and Casey Stage 1 (both of these estates have an affordability requirement).

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2. The 'typical' size of an affordable home sold by:
 - a. LDA OwnPlace is around 100 sqm house with 2-3 bedrooms (mostly three bedroom) on a 250 sqm block; and
 - b. Macgregor West 1 is 105 sqm house plus single garage, with 2-3 bedrooms (mostly three bedroom) on land totalling 300-450 sqm.
3. Under the ACT Government's Affordable Home Purchase Scheme, an 'affordable' home is now considered to cost under \$328,000 (for house and land), indexed annually and generally will consist of 2-3 bedrooms and the size is around 100 sqm (house) on land from 250 to 450 sqm (see above). Other affordability thresholds exist for families on low incomes in public and community housing.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....



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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 8 – LAND RELEASE - RESIDENTIAL

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Page 6: Noting that the current market demand for residential land release is higher than the 2500 to 3000 new dwellings that long-term demand indicates, what is the current level of demand?
2. And how is this being met, ie what type of dwellings? Could we please get a breakdown?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Current demand for new dwellings is currently estimated at 5,000 dwellings per annum.
2. In the 12 months to November 2010, 4,724 new dwellings have been approved in the ACT. The breakdown on dwelling type is as follows:

Houses	2,022
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse	790
Flat, unit or apartment	1,912

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 9 – LAND RELEASE - COMMERCIAL

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Where are the other greenfield areas which have the highest demand for retail and trade services in Canberra, aside from Gungahlin? (Page 6)

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Molonglo is the only other Greenfield area outside of Gungahlin in which construction has commenced. At this early stage there are no dwellings either under construction or recently completed, therefore there is no demand for retail services. Demand for trade services exists in Molonglo but is limited to engineering and site preparation trades to coincide with the initial earthmoving and infrastructure works.

In future years, Molonglo will cater for approximately 33,000 dwellings and will contribute to Canberra's new land supply for approximately 30 years.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 10 – LAND RELEASE - COMMERCIAL

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Where are the proposed land release sites within existing urban areas which are referred to in the report? (Page 6)

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The proposed land release sites referred to in the report are as follows:

Suburb	Block	Section
Amaroo Group Centre	1	106
Belconnen Town Centre	1	3
Belconnen Town Centre	1	152
Belconnen Town Centre	6	48
Belconnen Town Centre	1	149
Belconnen Town Centre	1	151
Bonner Local Centre	1	12
Bruce	5	91
Campbell	2	5
Casey Group Centre		36
Charnwood	11	97
Chisholm	7	598
City	2,3	20
City	5	30
City	pt	37
City	2&7	4
City	pt 11	19
Crace Local Centre		
Forrest	6	24

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Forrest	2	30
Franklin Local Centre		
Greenway	3	57
Greenway	1	58
Greenway	2	59
Greenway	1	66
Gungahlin Town Centre	5	2
Gungahlin Town Centre	1	225
Gungahlin Town Centre	1	12
Gungahlin Town Centre	8	18
Gungahlin Town Centre	9	18
Gungahlin Town Centre	pt 2	19
Harrison Local Centre		
Higgins	18	12
Holt	65	51
Holt	48	51
Hume		8
Kingston	48	19
Kingston Foreshore	13 h	
Kingston Foreshore	13 i	
Kingston Foreshore	14	
Kingston Foreshore	21	
Kingston Foreshore	3 b	
Kingston Foreshore	10	
Kingston Foreshore	20	
Ngunnawal	11	44
Parkes	pt 6	3
Phillip	1	7
Phillip	10	156
Phillip	17	15
Phillip	18	15
Stirling	4	24
Watson	3	95

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....



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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 11 – ACT PROPERTY GROUP GREEN LEASING

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

What is the proposed procurement process for the whole of Govt electricity contract – what requirements, etc? (Page 7)

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

ACT Property Group has convened an inter-departmental committee to oversight the procurement of a new contract to commence when the current contract expires on 30 September 2011. The ACT Procurement Board has approved the committee's Procurement Plan and the process to procure a new contract is under way.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 12 – ACT PROPERTY GROUP GREEN LEASING

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. What heritage assets does LAPS own?
 2. Is there a centralised ACT Government heritage assets register?
 3. Where can this be accessed?
- (Pages 34, 45 & 51)

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. LAPS is the custodian for the following registered heritage assets:
 - Hotel Kurrajong, Barton
 - Duntroon Dairy
 - Old Tuggeranong Schoolhouse, Chisholm
 - Civic Merry-go-round
 - Dickson Library
 - Stromlo Cottage, Weston
 - Gungahleen School House, North Lyneham
 - Woden Library & Shopfront, Phillip
 - Callam Offices, Phillip
 - Tuggeranong Homestead, Richardson
 - Canberra Brickworks, Yarralumla
 - Albert Hall

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LAPS is also custodian of Yarralumla Woolshed which is nominated, North Building in Civic which is listed on the Register of the National Estate, the heritage listed trees at the Downer Business Park, and a number of small buildings within heritage precincts in the inner north and south.

2. Yes.
3. http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/heritage/act_heritage_register .

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....



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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 13 – CONVENTION CENTRE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. What are the terms of reference for the Feasibility Study being undertaken by the Business Council on the Convention Centre?
2. When is the study expected to be finalised?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. The study is to examine:
 - (a) appropriate models for the new centre, including business models;
 - (b) factors which should be scoped out in an initial study of the practicality and viability of developing the new centre;
 - (c) functional requirements for a new centre;
 - (d) a preliminary business case for a new centre, looking (in broad terms) at the potential demand, and the matching costs of construction and operation;
 - (e) factors and associated evaluation criteria which will be crucial in identifying suitable sites as well as the optimum site, and assess relative priorities;
 - (f) Consider lifecycle business issues in relation to the existing national convention centre;
 - (g) Identify future development options for the existing national convention centre in or following the development of a new centre; and
 - (h) the event that the business case identifies a favourable option for development of a new centre, identify any further studies which may be required in order to progress the consideration of its development.
2. The study is expected to be finalised in 2011.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 14 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Is there any work being done to improve the accountability indicators to better reflect the aims of the programs which LAPS looks after? For example, rather than “Implement the Affordable Housing Action Plan” = “1” (p.78), there might be reporting against the 21 actions within the plan (p.83).
2. Is there a regular report on the progress of the Affordable Housing Action Plan? (if so, where is it published? If not, then it should be reported upon in greater detail in the Annual reports)

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Yes, accountability indicators are currently being reviewed.
2. Consideration will be given to providing greater detail in future annual reports.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 15 – REGIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. What were the projects funded by the \$800,000 in the Regional Local Community Infrastructure Program?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

- Construction of a loading area for the Mobile Library at Woden to facilitate its transfer from the Blaxland Centre to Woden Library - \$200,000. Work on this project is complete.
- Construction of two bike and ride facilities with swipe card access bike storage for around 20 bikes at each location and construction of two bus stop shelters - \$255,000. Work on this project is complete.
- Upgrade of facilities at John Knight Memorial Park including eight shade structures, three picnic settings, access pathways and landscaping - \$200,000. Work on this project is complete.
- Upgrade of picnic facilities at Western Foreshore District Park at Lake Ginninderra including installation of a new barbeque with picnic settings and an all weather shade structure - \$145,000. Work on this project is complete.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 16 – PLAYGROUNDS

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Why did LAPS inspect and maintain 445 playgrounds across Canberra?
2. How does this relate to the work that TAMS does on playgrounds?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. LAPS provides playground inspection, repairs and maintenance services to TAMS under a Service Level Agreement. The serviced playgrounds are located in Belconnen, Canberra City, Gungahlin, Inner South Canberra, the Rural Districts and Tuggeranong.
2. TAMS also has playground inspections, repair and maintenance services delivered by contractors in areas other than those looked after by LAPS.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 17 – FLAGS AND BANNERS

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. How much did the Government spend on the flags and banners for events?
2. Are the banners reusable for the following year? (eg. Winter in the City, Canberra Day, etc)

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. LAPS is responsible for flying flags and banners on behalf of clients, including ACT Government agencies, as a fee for service activity. In 2009-10 LAPS charged ACT Government Agencies \$73,919 to fly their flags and banners.
2. LAPS provides clients with guidelines for the production and specification of flags and banners, to ensure they can withstand effects of rain, sun and wind. If the guidelines are followed flags and banners should be suitable for re-use, but the decision whether to reuse or get new ones rests with the client. If requested, LAPS provides storage in Fyshwick for ACT Government agencies' flags and banners to facilitate re-use.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 18 – AGED CARE LAND RELEASE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

New model for aged persons' accommodation are being investigated to enable further land releases – what type of models are these?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

LAPS and LDA are investigating the release of residential zoned land for older persons' supported accommodation. The intention is to enable people to buy unit titled dwellings which are managed through an organisation that provides services. While this is technically possible, the market will need to be tested through a competitive process to determine whether there is demand for such dwellings as there is conflicting anecdotal evidence about the demand for this type of dwelling.

The government is determined that a portion of all types of older persons accommodation is sold at less than market value to maintain affordability across the range of dwellings available in the marketplace.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 19 – ACCOMMODATION UTILISATION RATE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Noting that the target for the average space per employee has been reduced to 15m² – does this allow include shared spaces, such as common rooms, meeting rooms, etc?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The office accommodation workplace density benchmark target for agencies is an average of 15m² per person. The workplace density target is for the entire Useable Office Area and includes all that area within an office building's net lettable area where the functions of government are, or can be, performed by administrative, technical, or professional staff.

Areas excluded from the measurement of Useable Office Area include:

- building entry foyers, including an area 1.5m in front and to each side of lift entry doors, emergency exits and toilet facilities;
- areas that do not provide adequate amenity for use as office space due to an absence of natural light or other physical constraints (for example in Macarthur House this includes an area affected by electrical interference from the electricity substation) and where it is either impracticable or too costly to rectify the problem;
- public areas associated with non-office functions such as customer service shop fronts, public libraries and specialist non-office areas such as health facilities;
- designated computer server rooms and telecommunication areas;
- cafeterias established for the use of the general public; and
- theatrettes and conference facilities that can be hired for use by the general public.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 20 – ACT GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Is LAPS coordinating the strategy to reduce Government office buildings energy use to meet the Government's climate change targets?
2. If so, what is the current strategy? Priorities? Timeline?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Yes.
2. LAPS has completed Level 2 energy audits for the major office buildings in its portfolio and is seeking achieve upgrades with payback periods of 5 years or less. In addition, in 2010 the ACT Government agreed to adopt both the National Framework for Sustainable Government Office Buildings (owned and subleased) and the National Green Leasing Policy (NGLP). The former provides the strategic framework for a number of sustainability issues including reducing government energy use in its office buildings. The latter establishes the minimum parameters the governments will seek when subleasing office space from the private sector both for building services and ongoing landlord and tenant management improvements. While the NGLP is yet to receive COAG endorsement (due in the first half of 2011), the ACT Government agreed at the end of 2009 to implement its major elements including all new and renewed office subleases in excess of 2,000m² must have a NABERS Rating of 4.5 Stars or better and there will be a Building Management Committee comprised of tenant nominees and representatives of the landlord and ACT Property Group to oversee landlord and tenant energy use is kept to a minimum. ACT Property Group is current completing a sublease renewal program for several major office buildings including the Canberra Nara Centre in Civic, 220 Northbourne Avenue in Braddon, 11 Moore Street in Civic and Nature Conservation House in Belconnen.

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All these buildings comply with the NGLP and already meet the NABERS Rating requirement with the exception of the Nara Centre where landlord works to building services will be completed shortly.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 21 – NON-GOVERNMENT TENANTS

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

What is the current waiting time for potential tenants on the waiting list for use of community group sites?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

Every effort is made to accommodate community groups on the application register in the shortest possible time. However, the length of time a community group can remain on the Application Register relates to the accommodation requirements of the community group. For example, some groups that have specific location, layout, and/or size requirements have been on the register for a number of years because nothing suitable has become available. Others with more general requirements have been able to be accommodated within months, or in some instances weeks, of lodging an application. The Applications Register operates on a first in, first out principle starting with the oldest application and progressing through the applications until the area available matches the application requirements. The oldest applications tend to be community organisations that have requested something like, for example, ‘a stand alone building about 3,000m² in size located in the suburb of Red Hill’. Criteria that may only be met once in a decade if at all.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 22 – CITY ACTION PLAN

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. What is the process for negotiating private sector investment in the Civic improvements as part of the Civic Action Plan?
2. (p.37 of Plan) – Regarding the commentary about the property consolidation around Garema Place and potential changes around the Centrepont Building- what exactly is being proposed for the area?
3. What is the government's role in these plans?
4. (p.50 of Plan) – The timeline says being construction in 2011 – given that the site hasn't yet been sold, is there another plan for this development proposal?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Land and Property Services (LAPS) maintains contact with stakeholders along City Walk to coordinate publicly funded improvements with private sector redevelopment intentions. For example, Lend Lease owns the Boulevard Building illustrated in the bottom photograph on page 38 of the *City Area Action Plan* (Plan). Design principles for the City Walk interface of the redevelopment of that building and the upgrading of that portion of City Walk are being jointly developed by LAPS and Lend Lease.
2. The Plan describes ownership of Centrepont as an interdependency upon which changes to Garema Place and that part of City Walk rely. At this stage LAPS is unaware of the redevelopment intentions of the building owners.
3. Refer to number 2.
4. LAPS is reviewing sale opportunities for the corner blocks at London Circuit and Northbourne Avenue. A lack of market interest saw the blocks passed in at the 2010 auction and market conditions will be reviewed during 2011.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

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Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 23 – SUPERMARKET COMPETITION POLICY

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Who has replaced Mr Martin to advise on competition issues on the Supermarket Competition Coordination Committee?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. The Department of Land and Property Services is currently exploring options for replacing Mr John Martin as an adviser on supermarket completion matters.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 24 – DIRECT GRANT OF LAND PROCESS

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

How will the direct grant of land process be streamlined?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The Department of Land and Property Services is now responsible for the direct sales process and has improved the process by facilitating timely input from other government agencies into the direct grant assessment process.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 25 – INCREASE OF GOVERNMENT’S RENEWABLE ENERGY INTAKE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

What measures are being taken by LAPS to increase the Government’s renewable energy intake?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The ACT Government currently purchases 32.5% of its total electricity consumption as renewable energy. This consists of energy produced from the methane generated by the land fill sites and commercial Green Power accredited energy. The Government is committed to increasing this level of consumption over the next few years.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 26 – CAPITAL UPGRADES

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

There are a number of capital upgrades which on the timeline are supposed to be finished by now, yet come in far under budget – does this mean that they are not completed? Eg. Climate change strategies for Dickson, Fyshwick and other offices.

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

LAPS had intended to complete all its capital upgrades projects within 2009-10, however unforeseen issues delayed some of these projects and they will be completed in 2010-11. In relation to the climate change strategy projects for Dickson, Fyshwick and other offices, LAPS has completed a full water capture and recycling system at Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry, installed water efficient toilets at North Building and has designed a water reuse systems for use at several of its properties.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 27 – ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DATA

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. What programs or policy did you put in place this year to reduce the department's own greenhouse emission? What emission reductions were achieved?
2. Has the department put any mechanisms in place to assess whether policies and programs implemented are being evaluated in terms of their contribution to greenhouse emissions reduction?
3. If so, have any evaluation of programs/policies been conducted?
4. If not, will this occur in the next financial year?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. LAPS joined the City Switch Program for its head office at Dickson. City Switch is run by DECCEW. LAPS have also implemented an initial energy assessment program with a view to identifying where changes can be made to reduce energy usage. A separate electricity meter for LAPS was installed in May 2010 and this has enabled LAPS to measure its energy use with a view to determining its tenancy NABERS rating. The National Green Leasing Policy makes provision for data to be collected and analysed over 15 months to determine a tenancy rating.
2. Not yet – this will be done once LAPS has received its initial tenancy rating results.
3. Refer to 2 above.
4. Based on a 15 month period to capture and analyse the data, it is expected that the evaluations will commence in 2011/12.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 28 – WATER USE AT FYSHWICK SITE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Will the site get separate metering so that its water use can be monitored.

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The site at 255 Canberra Avenue Fyshwick currently has water metering and its water use as a whole is monitored by LAPS. LAPS is unaware of instances where water meters are provided for each tenant in much the same way as electricity, as there are numerous technical difficulties to doing so, not the least being the need to have separate water pipes for each tenant.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

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Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 29 – GAS AND WATER USE AT NORTHBOURNE SITE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Will the gas and water be able to be calculated for this current financial year? (Being a leased building shouldn't make it impossible)

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

As per the advice at question 28, the area occupied by LAPS on Level 2, 490 Northbourne Ave is not separately metered to record water use and LAPS does not directly use any gas, but instead is the beneficiary of its use to heat the whole building. LAPS is not separately billed for gas or water, the cost is included in the rent. LAPS will endeavour to work with the Landlord to identify its share of water and gas used over 2010/11.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 30 – LAND RELEASE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. How many blocks were released in 2009-10 (by development/suburb)?
2. On how many of these blocks did construction start in 2009-10?
3. What is the typical delay between the block being released and construction commencing, and then settlement?
4. Of the 5000 blocks that are to be released in 2010-11, how many will be built on in 2010-11?
5. How does the Government define “land release”?
6. What infrastructure is typically in place when each block is released?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. The number of blocks released in 2009-10 (by development/Suburb) are as follows:

1	Aged Care Units in Kaleen and Calwell	254
2	Blocks 3 &4 Section 100 City (13/63)	200
3	Various DHCS Sites for Supportive Housing as follows: • Block 7 Section 99 Curtin - 12 • Block 11 Section 54 Macquarie - 13 • Block 6 Section 145 Florey - 34 • Block 8 Section 21 Bonython - 37 • Block 70 Section 11 Chapman - 31 • Block 3 Section 228 Conder - 53 • Block 1 Section 172 Kambah - 47 • Block 4 Section 29 Rivett - 70 • Block 1 Section 13 Braddon - 42	339
4	Block 8 Section 85 Bruce	300

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5	Forde	391
6	Crace	223
7	Woden East	179
8	Site 2 Section 62 Kingston (2a1 & 2a2)	264
9	Site 2 Section 51 Kingston (site 18)	88
10	Site 1 Section 63 Kingston (site 19)	130
11	Bonner 1a	20
12	Bonner 1b	185
13	Flemington Road (Harrison and Franklin)	505
14	Wright	459
15	Bonner 2	404
16	Bonner 3	334
17	Harrison Display Village	4
	Total	4,279

2. For the purpose of clarity, construction is assumed to be the first activity associated with the servicing of the land. Land servicing timelines vary among each of the 17 releases listed above. 9 of the 17 releases were already on fully serviced land (roads in place and sewer, power and water already connected). These serviced releases account for 2,084 dwelling sites. For the other 2195 dwelling sites, civil construction work has commenced on all except for the land in Wright. Construction work for the remaining sites ranged from 10 per cent complete to 90 per cent complete.
3. Timelines from release to construction to settlement vary depending on whether the individual release site is fully serviced or not. If the site is serviced, settlement typically takes place within 1 month. If not, construction work related to servicing the block commences 2 to 3 months after release while settlement takes place a further 12 months after that.
4. It is estimated that dwelling construction on these blocks will not commence until 2011/12. Once sites are released by the Government, it no longer has direct control on exact dwelling construction times. All leases include timeframes for the commencement and completion of construction which generally requires dwelling commencement within 12 months and completion after 2 years.
5. Land is classified as being released when made available for sale.

6. As outlined in the response to question 30, the level of infrastructure provision varies from one release to another with 2084 dwelling site in 2009-10 already on fully serviced land (roads in place and sewer power and water already connected). For the remaining 2195 dwelling sites, dwelling construction work on new infrastructure ranges from 10 per cent complete to 90 per cent complete.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 31 – LAND RELEASE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE ACT ECONOMY

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. What was the economic contribution that the land release program made to the ACT?
2. What would economic growth have been if blocks had not been released as quickly?
3. Has residential development been affected by the BER in any way?
 - a. For example, did it have an inflationary impact on the construction industry, and therefore house prices?
 - b. Did the ACT have enough appropriately skilled workers for both.
4. How has the other major infrastructure projects affected housing affordability at all?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. In the 2009-10 financial year, total revenues from land release were \$318.4 million which is 1.15 per cent of ACT Gross State Product.
2. The precise effect on economic growth is difficult to measure as there are first round effects from lower sales revenues and lower rates of new home construction, and multiplier effects in those industries that are linked through the supply chain.

Assuming land revenues were 20 per cent lower over the year, the detraction of GSP would be of the order of \$64 million through direct loss of revenue, \$200 million in direct dwelling construction and secondary declines of \$573 million.

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3. As at September 2010, the ACT and Region had \$7.162 billion worth of work in progress and \$9.187 billion in planned projects.

The ACT's share of the Building the Education Revolution program is expected to be in the order of \$350 million for schools and social housing. The injection of an additional \$350 million is approximately 2 per cent of the current work in progress and is having a negligible impact on inflation and house prices.

4. There has been no notable effect on affordability from major infrastructure projects. According to the Real Estate Institute of Australia, housing affordability declined over the 2009-10 financial year by 3.8 per cent. Generally residential construction builders and contractors do not transfer into commercial construction, civil works or major infrastructure projects.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 32 – LDA, EXPENDITURE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Why was the cost of land sold (at \$96.7 million) lower than budget, given the number of residential dwellings released was significantly over budget?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

Under the accounting standards the sale of a property is recognised at settlement. Settlement is not the same as land released for sale.

The cost of land sold is lower than budget due to:

- sales being lower than budget; and
- the downward revision of project cost estimates and subsequently the cost of land sold to be expensed.

Sales are lower than budget despite the increase in the release of residential dwellings compared to budget due to:

- dwellings that are released may not be sold in the relevant Financial Year.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 33 – LDA, REVENUE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

On page 12, the Annual Report indicates that total revenues and land sale revenues were lower than forecast, however residential land releases of 4279 dwellings were above the forecasted 3014 dwellings.

1. How is it then that revenue had dropped?
2. How is it that operating profit was almost double the forecast (page 13)?
3. What is the source of interest revenue? Could the LDA please provide a detailed breakdown of the sources of this revenue?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Under the accounting standards the sale of a property is recognised at settlement. Settlement is not the same as land released for sale.

Sales are lower than budget despite the increase in the release of residential dwellings compared to budget due to:

- dwellings that are released may not be settled in the relevant Financial Year.
2. Operating profit increased compared to budget primarily due to lower development costs than estimated decreasing actual cost of land sold (\$26m), profits from Joint Ventures were greater than budget due to unanticipated land sales in the Crace Joint Venture (\$13m), increases in interest and other revenues compared to budget (\$8m) and a decrease in expenditure compared to budget (\$8m).

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3. Please refer to Note 8 (page 59) of the audited Financial Statements. The \$2.3m detailed in this note described as 'Late Settlements and Deferred Payments' is comprised of the following:

Late Settlement Interest Penalties

Weston 6/98	- \$179,507
Macgregor West	- \$119,293
Bonner – Various	- \$171,358
Franklin – Various	- \$ 87,543
Other – Various	- \$ 39,491
Total	- \$597,192

This represents Interest calculated on the balance due at settlement if the buyer delays settlement.

Default Interest on Overdue Instalment Payments

Macgregor West	- \$ 124,335
Total	- \$ 124,335

This represents Interest charged on late payment of a premium instalment under the deed of agreement.

Deferred Payment Interest

Franklin Demo Housing	- \$ 94,885
Dunlop Demo Housing	- \$108,042
Macgregor West	- \$265,726
Hume Data Centre	- \$ 51,701
Total	- \$ 520,354

The Land Development Agency (LDA) has entered into contracts for sale where there is a deferred payment arrangement. Under LDA's Accounting Policy Paper – Revenue Recognition for Land Sales – Australian Accounting Standard 'AASB 118 Revenue' LDA have discounted the sales revenue recognised to net present value (NPV). The difference between NPV and the receivable is recognised as interest revenue.

Income Tax Interest

Income Tax Interest	- \$ 1,098,990
Total	- \$ 1,098,990

The LDA amended their National Tax Equivalent Regime (NTER) assessments for the 2007 & 2008 year. This amendment decreased the income tax payment owed by LDA to ACT Treasury. ACT Treasury has paid Interest on Overpayments (IOP) in respect of these amended assessments.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
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MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 34 – LDA, COMMERCIAL LAND RELEASE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Page 9 of the Annual Report indicates that 95,124 square metres of commercial land was released to the market in 2009-10.

1. How much of this land was for retail, bulky good, commercial office space and other uses?
2. How much of this land has already been built on?
3. Where was this land release (by suburb)?
4. How far was this from the original forecast for 2009-10?
5. What were the reasons for any discrepancies between the forecast and the final result?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Table 1 - *Outcome of 2009/10 Commercial Land Release Program* (below) provides an outline of the range of uses permitted by the lease for each of the commercial sites released.

Suburb	Block	Section	Release Achieved (m ²)	Range of Uses
Belconnen	8	20	2,142	Service trades uses, residential & minor retail
Bonner	1	12	5,000	Retail including supermarket
Bruce	8	85	33,870	Full range of uses including retail, hotel & light industrial
City	3	100	6,200	Hotel/serviced apartment, minor retail & public car park
City	4	100	4,424	Residential & retail/shops
Griffith	5	18	2,908	Club, commercial accommodation &

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				residential
Gungahlin	1	209	17,264	Child care/health facility, drink establishment & restaurant
Gungahlin	6	88	6,015	Child care/health facility, drink establishment & restaurant
Kingston	1	63	5,308	Full range of uses including Restaurant, shop & residential
Kingston	2	51	3,159	Full range of uses including Restaurant, shop & residential
Kingston	2	62	5,216	Full range of uses including Community use, Hotel, serviced apartments & residential
Kingston	3	62	3,618	Full range of uses including Community use, Hotel, serviced apartments & residential
TOTAL			95,124m²	

2. As the majority of the sites did not settle until the end of the financial year or are still to settle due to the completion of infrastructure works, it is unlikely that any buildings are completed.
3. Table 1 - *Outcome of 2009/10 Commercial Land Release Program* details the suburbs where each land release occurred.
4. The original forecast for 2009-10 was 99,718 square metres meaning that the achieved releases were 4,594 square metres below target. This is within 5% of the original target.
5. The discrepancies between the forecast and the final result were due to a number of factors including market conditions and the need to undertake and gain Government Agency approval to a number of assessments including engineering, traffic and environmental studies before the sites can be released.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 35 – LDA, CONTRACTS

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

For each contract that was over budget and/or delivered late.

1. Why was it over budget?
2. Why was it not completed on time?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Contracts for civil works and landscaping incur increases to original cost estimates. These increases in original cost estimates are typically associated with changes in the scope of works initiated by the Land Development Agency (LDA) or design changes that result from Authority approval requirements (for example ACTPLA, TAMS and Commonwealth EPBC etc) and site latent conditions (for example, unforeseen rock and unsuitable excavated material).
2. There are a range of factors that can influence the completion timeframes for contracts. These factors typically fall into one of two categories:
 - Extensions of Time may be granted by the independent superintendant for issues such as wet weather or design changes; and
 - Contracts can be delayed due to the contractor and subsequently the contract date is not achieved.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 36 – GOVERNMENT LAND OWNERSHIP

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. How much land does the Government own in each town centre, and on Northbourne Avenue?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Including unleased vacant land that is developable (excludes open space, land in easements or utilised for pedestrian routes) there is approximately 91 ha of land in Civic, the town centres and along Northbourne Avenue.

The developable unleased land could be used for a variety of land uses including commercial, residential and community purposes. Consequently it is not possible to provide an accurate indication of the possible number of dwellings that could be developed.

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Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 37 – BONYTHON/BRINDABELLAS

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. On page 7, there is reference to land releases in Bonython, but it doesn't appear on the list of release sites on p.5 – what is the status of this site?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. The map on page 7 of the Land Development Agency Annual Report shows both current and previously completed LDA Estates. The Brindabellas at Bonython Estate was completed in a previous financial year as was Wells Station and Ginninderra Ridge.

The Bonython site is a mixture of multi-units and detached houses.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 38 – LDA, URBAN INFILL

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. What is the LDA's role in meeting the Government's 50% urban infill 50% Greenfield development policy?
2. What is the LDA strategy for meeting this policy?
3. Do sites like Woden Green count towards this target?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. In accordance with the Land Development Agency's (LDA) Statement of Intent the LDA is responsible for delivering the Government's Indicative Land Release Programs for the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

The land release programs include a range of greenfield and infill sites. Infill sites include Kingston Foreshore, Constitution Avenue sites in Campbell and Parkes, City Hill, Eastlake, town centres, group centres as well as appropriately zoned vacant land within existing urban boundaries. The LDA prepares and markets these sites to enable them to be released to the market.

2. The LDA has established a new Urban Renewal Division in recognition that urban infill is increasingly becoming one of the main areas of activity for the LDA going forward.

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The Urban Renewal Division is currently undertaking detailed due diligence, planning and research for urban infill/renewal in Woden Town Centre (western precinct), Tuggeranong Town Centre, Belconnen Town Centre, Campbell Section 5 and Parkes Section 3 (Constitution Avenue), Canberra Brickworks and Environs and Hawker Group Centre. This work is being undertaken to support the department of Land and Property Services (LAPS) in their policy role to prepare future land release programs.

3. Yes.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 39 – LDA, OWNPLACE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Are people interested in purchasing multi-unit dwellings eligible for the OwnPlace scheme?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

No. Any purchaser who qualifies for the ACT Home Buyer Concession Scheme (HBCS), administered and set by the ACT Revenue Office, is eligible to purchase an OwnPlace dwelling. The OwnPlace Program is delivered in partnership with prequalified builders who have entered into a performance agreement with the Land Development Agency. The OwnPlace Program offers detached and attached (terrace) dwellings for eligible purchasers.

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Jon Stanhope MLA
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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 40 – LDA, LAND RELEASE TARGET

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Given that residential land release exceeded the Statement of Intent target by over 30%, how was this managed – were some sites released earlier than originally intended, and if so, which ones?
2. If Molonglo (Wright), then how did this affect infrastructure development planning?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. The increase in residential releases compared to the target was mainly due to additional releases from the Land Development Agency (LDA) Estates of Bonner and Flemington Road together with increased releases from the Forde and Woden East Joint Ventures. The increased releases all responded to the ACT Government's increase during the year of the volume target in the Indicative Residential Land Release Program to sites for 4,061 dwellings. Furthermore, the LDA facilitated the direct sale of land for 339 dwellings to the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services to utilise as supportive housing sites.
2. The target volume increases were not met through Molonglo and subsequently did not affect the infrastructure planning

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 41 – LDA, UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

What ratio of dwellings developed by LDA, or as Joint Venture, are universal design? –
Multi-unit? – Single dwelling?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The Land Development Agency (LDA) does not have the information regarding the ratio of universal design dwellings as the LDA's focus is developing and servicing land for sales release in accordance with the land release programs. The design of individual dwellings is controlled by a range of planning controls established by ACTPLA who also assess all building applications prior to construction.

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Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 42 – INFILL RELEASE THIS YEAR

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Phillip and Narrabundah have sites which will be released in this Financial Year – where are they and what is the nature of these? Are they aged care dwellings? Are they multi-unit dwellings?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The Phillip site is part of Block 8, Section 9 which is the car park bounded by Furzer Street, Corinna Street and Melrose Drive. The site is being planned to be mixed use comprising commercial and high density residential and will include a structured car park. This proposal has been included in recent community consultation.

The Narrabundah site is Block 45, Section 100 and is at 265 Goyder Street. On the site currently is the Narrabundah Business Park containing office accommodation. Currently LAPS is investigating options to convert the existing buildings to accommodation for short term key workers, therefore it has been removed from the land release program in the short term.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 43 – LDA, LAND RELEASE REVENUE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Why did land release increase, but revenues were lower than forecast in the Statement of Intent?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

Refer to the response for question 32.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 44 – LDA, LAND SERVICING COSTS

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

How have land servicing and building construction costs varied over the last five or so years.

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

Construction costs have increased in line with standard industry cost rate adjustments for materials and labour.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

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Minister for Land and Property Services

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 45 – LDA, OFF SITE INFRASTRUCTURE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Why is there an increase in off-site infrastructure being completed by purchasers?
2. What in particular has changed?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. The increase in off-site infrastructure being completed by purchasers in 2010 financial year was mainly brought about by two major direct sales that occurred during the year in which there were significant offset works to be undertaken to facilitate the sites development. These sites were Block 6 Section 24 City (Nishi development - \$5.177 m) and block 20 section 23 Hume (Hume Data Centre - \$1.477m).
2. As per above.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 46 – LDA, COST OF LAND SOLD

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

The 'cost of land sold' was revised downwards – why was this?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

Refer to response to Question 32

The downward revision of project cost estimates was calculated in accordance with the Land Development Agency's (LDA) bi-annual review of all projects in which costs to complete are continually analysed. The computations involve a consultative process involving both financial and operational executive staff. The calculations are based on invoices paid to date, accrued expenditure and an estimation of costs still to be incurred to ensure satisfactory completion of the project. Furthermore, an appropriate contingency is calculated based on management experience and expertise together with accepted industry norms.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 47 – LDA, JOINT VENTURES

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Have the Joint Ventures been easier than sole LDA development/release?
2. How is the work:profit ratio?
3. Will the LDA be seeking to do Joint Ventures more often?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Each Joint Venture is a unique project with a range of differing project complexities. The Joint Venture structure typically consumes less Land Development Agency (LDA) staff resources, once established and operating, and only requires the LDA to fund 50 per cent of the project costs. The trade off with a reduction in staff and financial resource commitment to Joint Venture projects is an increase in project management costs and having to share 50 per cent of the profit.
2. The Joint Venture model previously used on the existing LDA Joint Ventures is based on a equally shared risk and reward structure. Under this model each party equally shares half the cost, risks and profits from the project. This model is commonly referred to as a 50/50 Joint Venture for these reasons.
3. The LDA will continue to deliver land in accordance with the Indicative Land Release Programs established by Government.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 48 – LDA, DIRECT GRANT COSTS

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

What is the government cost of direct grants? \$0.29M is noted on p.40 – is this the cost of land, or other costs?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

This is not the cost of land, it is other activity costs incurred including grant applications and site assessments for direct sales.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 49 – LDA, RECEIVABLES (WRITE-OFFS)

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Receivables are significantly higher than usual this year – why is this?
2. Are companies going bankrupt? Disappearing?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. There has been:
 - an increase in contracts that were exchanged prior to the end of the 2009-10 reporting period which were recognised as revenue under Australian Accounting Standard 118 – *Revenue*; and
 - an increase in the number of contracts in which sale proceeds will be received by instalments.
2. The LDA does not have any information that indicates that companies are going bankrupt.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 50 – LDA, CAR PARKING REVENUE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Why has car parking revenue been reduced this year?
2. Will the LDA continue to own and run the Kingston Market and City parking sites?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. The rental user charges detailed in Note 6 & 7 (Page58) of the Financial Statements relate predominately to rental charges received for the use of the Kingston Markets site and a City site. Whilst the latter site is utilised as a car park, Land Development Agency (LDA) does not collect any car parking revenue. The rental received for these sites increased by approximately \$42k in 2009-10 compared to 2008-09. This was due to the timing of LDA's relocation from the Kingston Markets to Dickson in February 2009. The timing of the relocation enabled LDA to collect three months of rent in the 2008-09 year in comparison to 12 months of rent in the 2009-10 year.
2. LDA is not currently planning to change the existing ownership arrangements for either of these sites.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 51 – LAND SALES REVENUE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Why does revenue for land sold go to TAMS? (\$27.8M).

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. Land revenue payments to TAMS is for the inherent value of underdeveloped land. The funds are receipted by TAMS on the Territorial account.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

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MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 52 – WRIGHT LAND RELEASE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Why was it decided that Wright should be an LDA estate, not release englobo as originally intended?
2. Is it more profitable for the LDA to develop sites than selling englobo?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. It was decided to release Wright as an LDA Estate due to possible risks associated with gaining EPBC clearance.
2. Yes.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....

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Jon Stanhope MLA

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 53 – “OTHER”

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

What are the 337 releases labelled ‘other’? Do they include the 200 aged care dwellings in Calwell (p.182)?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The releases labelled other are all in Tuggeranong and include the aged care dwellings in Calwell and are as follows:

Aged Care in Calwell	200
8/21 Bonython (DHCS Supportive Housing)	37
3/228 Conder (DHCS Supportive Housing)	53
1/172 Kambah (DHCS Supportive Housing)	47

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 54 – INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

What is the take up of the Institutional investor initiative to increase rental accommodation?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

In order to monitor and advance the Institutional Investor Initiative within the Affordable Housing Action Plan, a steering committee was formed made up of representatives of LAPS, CMD and Treasury.

Following the receipt and assessment tenders, it was agreed that the tenders were not consistent with the original brief and were unlikely to deliver an adequate return on investment for the Territory. Some analysis was undertaken in order to consider the ACT Government taking a lead role in the delivery of the initiative but again it was deemed to be not economically viable.

The Institutional Investor Initiative Steering Committee therefore agreed that the initiative be temporarily suspended and the land set aside in Flemington Road Franklin be released. The Institutional Investor Initiative will be re-instigated now the economic circumstances have improved and as a consequence lending has also improved.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 55 – LDA, MINGLE

Questions to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Has the Mingle program been considered successful?
2. Will it be replicated in other new suburbs?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

1. The Mingle program commenced in the Land Development Agency's (LDA) suburb of Franklin in early 2009. To date surveys and arranged community events to monitor resident satisfaction with the program have provided positive feedback. There has been an increase in the number of residents who are requesting to be involved in the activities and also an increase in the number requesting to be included in the Franklin Mingle database. Since April 2010 the LDA has organised over ten community events for residents of Franklin such as walking groups (including breakfast), outdoor movie nights, community/family events, multi-cultural evenings, Clean up Australia events and Christmas in Gungahlin.
2. The LDA is planning to commence Mingle Program activities in Bonner, Wright and Coombs this year. The program will differ in each suburb to the varied demographics, resident feedback and proximity to surrounding services.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 56 – LDA, KINGSTON ASSETS

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Why is the LDA holding the Kingston Bus Depot and the Fitters Workshop in their assets inventory, rather than CMD or LAPS?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The Kingston Bus Depot (Former Transport Depot) and Fitters Workshop were formally part of the Kingston Foreshore Development Authority (KFDA) inventory. When KFDA, Gungahlin Development Authority (GDA) and the Land Group were combined to create the Land Development Agency (LDA), these assets effectively formed part of LDA's initial inventory.

LDA have continued to manage these assets and given their location, they will form part of the cultural precinct of Kingston Foreshore. The LDA in consultation with ArtsACT are currently preparing a master plan for this area and the Bus Depot and Fitters Workshop building along with the Kingston Glassworks will be key cultural and market buildings within the precinct.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 57 – LDA, GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS

Questions to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

1. Has the department put any mechanisms in place to assess whether policies and programs implemented are being evaluated in terms of their contribution to green house emissions reductions?
2. If so, have any evaluations of programs/policies been conducted?
3. If not, will this occur in the next financial year?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the questions are as follows:

1. The Land Development Agency (LDA) is taking a range of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within its developments including a number of mechanisms to evaluate their contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

For example the first suburbs in Molonglo have achieved certification under Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) EnviroDevelopment including an energy target of 45 percent reduction of greenhouse gas production compared with recent traditional developments. Certification is valid for 12 months. Documentation is required for ongoing renewal, and may be subject to random site checks.

In the case of the Bonner Display village, an independent audit was conducted of all the Building Thermal Performance (EER) Assessments to ensure accurate energy ratings.

2. Yes, as above.

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3. It will not be possible to assess the effectiveness of some of the new sustainability initiatives until they have been in place for some time, which may or may not fall into the next financial year. For example the Home Sustainability Advice Program in Molonglo will help home owners maximise the energy efficiency of the their home and take advantage of the solar orientation of their blocks. It is intended that this Program will be evaluated for possible application elsewhere, but its effectiveness in reducing greenhouse gas emissions cannot be fully assessed until after houses are completed and occupied.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....



Jon Stanhope MLA

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

QUESTION NUMBER 58 – LDA, ENGLOBO DEVELOPMENTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Question to the Minister for Land and Property Services:

Are the sustainability elements in the LDA Framework also embedded into englobo development contracts?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the question is as follows:

The Land Development Agency does not impose its own Sustainability and Innovation Framework, however englobo Deeds of Agreement do include provisions to support government policy outcomes such as Affordable Housing, in addition englobo private developers are required to comply with planning codes and development conditions administered by ACTPLA

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Land and Property Services

Date:.....

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**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 59)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

What analysis has the Government done of the environmental impacts of different types of cemeteries and crematoria, including natural burials? Will the government now look into this issue, in light of the new 40% GHG reduction target we have in the ACT?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Public Cemeteries Authority has undertaken an Air Quality Impact Assessment for a proposed Crematorium. The Government has not carried out any comparisons of the environmental impacts of different burial practices.

The Government is considering the potential composition of a new cemetery complex in south Canberra, including the development of a crematorium and a significant component of space set aside for natural burial.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**


Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

28/11

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 60)
10 November 2010**

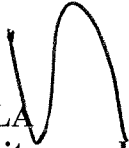
THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

Can you please provide the assessment you have done of building a new crematorium in the ACT (including the financial analysis if it is owned and operated by the authority)?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Government is considering a business case for a proposed cemetery and crematorium complex prepared by the ACT Cemeteries Authority. In summary, the business case includes an assessment that addresses the financial aspects of operating a cemetery with an integrated crematorium and function centre.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**


Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

28/11

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 61)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

The report says that TAMS had the most instances of fraud in ACT departments. Are there any additional fraud prevention measures being taken in response to the 'over the horizon report', beyond those already listed on p63 of the annual report?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

In addition to the fraud prevention measures on page 63 of the TAMS Annual Report 2009 – 10, TAMS has the following measures in place:

- an annual program of Fraud and Ethics awareness training;
- published (intranet) guidelines for reporting security (including fraud and corruption) incidents;
- formal and informal reporting channels, including dedicated email addresses (TAMS Senior Executive Responsible for Business Integrity Risk (SERBIR) and TAMS Security);
- a Fraud, Corruption and Public Interest Disclosure assessment process;
- a security incident database to allow monitoring and reporting on trends;
- an executive assessment team to advise and support the SERBIR, including overseeing and/or implementing any agreed course of action in relation to fraud matters.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services


**Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services**


Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 62)

10 November 2010

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

The report notes there was a 10% increase in office energy use, and a 30% increase in office energy use per square metre from 08-09 to 09-10.

- (1) Why has this happened?
- (2) What have been the additional costs to the department because of this increase?

Total water use also decreased by almost 10%. What dollar savings has that translated into for the department?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) In fact, an error was made in the 2009-10 Annual Report for the Department of Territory and Municipal Services. The error occurred through the double counting of renewable energy use in Table 41 (a) on page 114 of the Annual Report. The correct figure for total office energy use was 13,217,584 megajoules. The change in office energy use, therefore, was a reduction of 10%.

The correct figure for office energy intensity in 2009-10 was 1,826 megajoules per square metre, which represents an increase of 8% on 2008-09. This increase occurred because of the reduction in office space occupied, as a result of changes in administrative arrangements and the implementation of policies that resulted in reduced space per officer.

- (2) The cost of energy to the Department has therefore fallen and not increased.

The savings to the Department due to reduced water consumption was \$5,195.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services



Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 63)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

The annual report notes that by June 2010, 80564 items had been borrowed from Kingston Library. What is the most up to date figure?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

Up to 30 November 2010, 142,398 items had been borrowed from the Kingston Library.

This represents a turn over rate of the collection of 7 times.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**


**Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services**

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 64)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

How much use is the 'fix my street' site getting? What kinds of response times are people getting through the website; what is the average response time?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Fix My Street site was established on 23 June 2010 and has received 3110 items of feedback as at 7 January 2011. This is an average of 111 submissions per week.

The site covers a broad range of municipal issues, all of which have varying response times. All submissions are triaged manually and high priority issues are identified by the description provided. The high usage by the public of the Fix My Street site has contributed to some of these high priority jobs taking up to two weeks before they are responded to. An average of two weeks response time applies to medium priority works, such as nature strips, tree and grass issues. Lower priority works, such as minor road works, is scheduled for response within 10 to 30 days.

Larger issues, like road works, may require long term work which may take several months to complete.

For urgent safety issues, such as needle collection, the Fix My Street site directs the user to contact Canberra Connect by phone on 13 22 81 to ensure the matter is addressed immediately.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services



28/11

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 65)
10 November 2010**

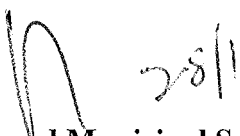
THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

Has the government developed a public servant car pool plan to facilitate car pooling among public servants? What plans are there to do this?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

A car pooling pilot commenced in mid-2010 at the Canberra Hospital and ACT Health department. An evaluation will be undertaken after the first year of the pilot, after which consideration will be given to making car pooling available across other ACT government departments.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**


**Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services**

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
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INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 66)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

Could you update us on the work being done on a State Circle cycle lane? I understand the project received money in the last budget and was due to be completed by now.

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

A project covering the provision of an on road cycle lane on State Circle was identified as a priority in August 2007 and it was included in a forward program.

A design covering the provision of this on road cycle lane was publicly tendered in March 2010. The tendered price far exceeded the budget funding available and was not considered to be affordable.

Roads ACT consulted with the cycle advocacy group, Pedal Power, at the time and it was agreed that a better use of the available funds would be achieved by progressing cycle facilities works on Ginninderra Drive and Mouat Street.

On this basis, the project on State Circle was put on hold and construction works were progressed on Ginninderra Drive and Mouat Street. These works are now in place.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
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Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services


Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 67)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

What work is being done around the Woden town centre to improve access by bike and by foot – especially as it can be quite hard to reach by bike from the surrounding suburbs?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Canberra's cycling and pedestrian main routes network was revised and updated in 2010 after extensive consultation with key stakeholders and the public.

The main routes network of on and off-road facilities is intended to provide access for commuter cyclists between suburbs, town centres and major employment centres. It does not include or identify facilities at the micro level.

Woden Town Centre is currently served by on and off-road cycle facilities along Melrose Drive, an off-road shared use path along Yarralumla Creek, and cycle lanes on Hindmarsh Drive and Launceston Street.

The 2010 revised and updated cycling and pedestrian main routes network proposes the following facilities around Woden Town Centre:

- Cycle lanes on Corinna Street between Melrose Drive and Callam Street;
- Cycle lanes on Callam St between Launceston Street and Hindmarsh Drive;
- Shared use off-road paths along Ball Street/Altree Court/Townsend Street between Corinna Street and Parramatta Street, Corinna Street between Ball Street and Callam Street, Callam Street between Corinna Street and Hindmarsh Drive, Bradley Street/Bowes Street between Corinna Street and Launceston Street, and Parramatta Street between Melrose Drive and Athllon Drive;
- A shared use path running east/west through the centre of the town centre from Easty Street to the pedestrian underpass on Melrose Drive;

- An accessible path for visually and mobility impaired pedestrians along Bradley Street between Easty Street and Woden Town Square. This project is included in the top 13 projects to be examined by a Government appointed working group to assess the feasibility of the proposal and subject to the outcome of this assessment will be constructed in the coming years to meet the Government's sustainable transport target of 14% of journey to work trips by cycling and walking by 2026; and
- 40 km/hr speed limits will also be installed in the Woden Town Centre during 2011 as part of a trial of 40km/hr speed limits around town centres. This will provide a safer environment for cyclists and also provide safer opportunities for pedestrians to cross roads at locations other than marked crossings.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services



28/11

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 68)

10 November 2010

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

The bike 'n' rides that are supposed to be finished by the end of 2010 (Flemington Rd, Gungahlin and Cohen Street, Belconnen) – will they still be done; where are they up to?

The two Park 'n' Rides that are scheduled to be finished during this financial year (Purdue St, Belconnen and Exhibition Park) – are they still on track; when will they be opened?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The *Bike and Ride* facility in Belconnen has already been installed at the extended part of Cohen Street near the *Belconnen Community Station*. The construction at Flemington Road has been delayed due to poor weather conditions and is expected to be completed by the end of February 2011. The two facilities will be opened in March (date to be confirmed), in accordance with the Commonwealth's requirements for projects funded through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

The design of *park and rides* at Purdue St Belconnen and Exhibition Park is currently underway, and they are on track to be completed by the end of the 2010-11 financial year.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**

 28/11
Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 69)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

The report lists the bulky waste collection trial as a priority for the department.

Can you please provide an update on this program. (Has that started yet? How much will it cost to have rubbish collected? Where will the collected goods go Etc.)

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Bulky Waste Collection Trial is on target to commence in early March 2011.

The cost to have the rubbish collected will be determined through the tender process as will be the type of material and collection processes.

The Trial has been allocated a budget of \$1M to provide the services and manage and report on the Trial results.

The tender will require that appropriate disposal, re-use or recycling of the goods collected will be the responsibility of the successful tenderer.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
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Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services


Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 70)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

Regarding the work that's being done on finding new markets for recycled materials:

Can you please provide an update on this work? What new recycling businesses have started up as a result of this work?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

ACT NOWaste created the new role of Resource Recovery Market Development Officer as of July 2010. The officer is responsible for a number of tasks, including:

- Liaising with the private resource recovery sector;
- Determining what needs exist in order for resource recovery businesses to operate more effectively and how those needs could be met;
- Gathering data about how much and what type of material is currently recycled;
- Investigating potential new markets and barriers for the use of recycled products;
- Identifying means of overcoming those barriers; and
- Identifying any areas of new business opportunity for the sector.

A number of areas have been identified for potential new markets for recycled materials, and work has been undertaken to develop these markets. As these operations involve commercial organisations developing new operations, there are commercial-in-confidence considerations that prevent the disclosure of the details of these operations.

Some new recycling initiatives that have been investigated include:

Timber – Over 30,000 tonnes of waste timber from forestry, construction and demolition activities is produced each year in the ACT. While there is some mulching and reuse of timber, there is far more waste timber produced than is currently needed by these operations, leading to large stockpiles of waste timber. Working with current recyclers to find new markets for this material has led to new projects and markets for timber, which are expected to be operating and available in early 2011.

Construction and Demolition Recycling Fines – The ACT has a very strong construction and demolition (C and D) recycling sector, with nearly 250,000 tonnes of material recycled per annum, which is more than the total of waste to landfill in the ACT from all sources. Recycling of mixed demolition material, however, results in significant quantities of fines (a soil type material with particle size under 5mm). Estimates suggest that over 50,000 tonnes of this material can be produced by ACT recyclers each year. While some of this material is used as a landfill cover, there is more material produced than needed operationally, and currently this excess is either stockpiled or sent to landfill. Working with the EPA and C and D recyclers, new markets for this material are being investigated, including remediation of old landfill sites and use as topsoil.

Crushed Glass – The ACT produces over 10,000 tonnes of mixed colour crushed and broken glass. Currently this material is sent interstate at a high cost, where it is often stockpiled and not recycled. ACT NOWaste is working with industry to investigate screening, sorting and processing of this material within the ACT, which would ensure recycling and develop employment within the ACT.

Plasterboard – Plasterboard is completely recyclable and can produce valuable agricultural products, but landfill audits estimate up to 5,000 tonnes a year of plasterboard is currently turned into landfill in the ACT. While there is some limited recycling in the region by an interstate operator working in partnership with an ACT recycler, discussions with renovation companies and waste transporters reveal a lack of knowledge about recycling options. ACT NOWaste is working with organisations already involved in plasterboard recycling in order to expand operations in the ACT and publicise recycling alternatives for this material.

Some further areas that will be a focus in 2011 include mattresses, carpets and textiles. Although recycling markets for these materials exist interstate, in the ACT they are generally disposed of to landfill.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services


Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 71)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

Can you please provide information on plans to provide recycling drop off points for domestic batteries. Where would these be, how would the system work, when would this initiative be operational?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

A budget bid for the recycling of domestic household batteries is currently being developed. This bid will be assessed in line with normal budget processes. Implementation of a domestic battery recycling plan and drop off points will depend on the outcome of this bid.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**


Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Date:.....


**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 72)

10 November 2010

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

The report proposes taking measures to reduce water needed by parks and open space – what are the measures being taken, and what measures does the Government propose to take?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Measures currently undertaken to reduce reliance on potable water within the parks and open space system include:

- Planting of trees and shrubs adapted to a dry climate environment.
- Selecting drought tolerant turf species (eg, couch) in suitable locations.
- Development applications are assessed for using drought hardy plant species.
- Deep mulching of newly planted trees and shrubs and of established shrub beds.
- Using only non-potable water to fill public fountains and to hand water young trees.
- Using Non-potable water from water tanks recently installed in maintenance depots to clean plant and equipment.
- Purchasing low water-use steam/pressure cleaners for cleaning shopping centres.
- Monitoring irrigation systems to identify any leaks and arranging immediate repair.
- Monitoring water bills to identify areas of high water usage and reviewing water saving measures for these sites (ie, adjusting irrigation regimes).
- Installing dual flush systems in public toilets.
- Converting potable irrigation systems to non-potable water supplies where feasible (eg, at John Knight Park, Western Foreshore of Lake Ginninderra, Yerrabi Pond, Point Hut Pond, Tuggeranong Town Park).
- Installing Comtrol irrigation controller system in most Town and District Parks to provide most efficient watering regimes.

Measures proposed to reduce reliance on potable water within parks and open space system are:

- A review of the tree planting list in the Urban Design Guidelines to identify suitable species for planting in Canberra's climate.
- An investigation of alternative non-potable water supplies to irrigate parks such as CIT Arboretum and Kambah District Park.
- Connection of Gungahlin Town Park to non-potable water supply (in progress).
- Ongoing implementation of water saving measures.
- Installation of Control in other parks where feasible.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services


Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

25/1
Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 73)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

Please provide a breakdown of spending for all programs in Parks, Conservation and Lands for the 2009-10 financial year, including the specific areas of:

- Pest plant management
- Feral animal management
- Management of Canberra Nature Park
- Management of Namadgi National Park
- Management of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve
- Employment of ranger staff
- Employment of all other PCL staff

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

A breakdown of spending for all programs in Parks, Conservation and Lands for the 2009-10 financial year is as follows. Responses in each case reflect the total expense associated with program delivery, not including one off capital works allocations for the particular year.

Pest Plant Management: \$1.541 million
Feral Animal Management: \$0.277 million
Management of Canberra Nature Park: \$4.112 million
Management of Namadgi National Park: \$3.166 million
Management of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve: \$3.185 million
Employment of Ranger Staff: \$3.205 million
Employment of all other PCL staff: \$20.804 million

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services



14/2
Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 74)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

1. For what reasons was the internal restructure of Parks Conservation and Lands undertaken?
2. Have the objectives of the restructure been met?
3. Have all staff positions that were put on hold earlier this year now been filled?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The internal restructure of Parks Conservation and Lands branch was undertaken to:
 - further align co-ordination of land management functions across the ACT;
 - ensure cohesive resourcing for related functions such as planning, operations and management; and
 - deliver land management functions within the agreed budget.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**


Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 75)

10 November 2010

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

1. Page 19 gives an indication of user satisfaction for town and districts – does “district parks” refer to the Canberra Nature Park and Namadgi and Tidbinbilla?
2. Please provide a breakdown of those figures that give an indication of satisfaction with our nature parks.
3. How many people were surveyed and how are the surveys undertaken?
4. Please provide a breakdown of those figures that give an indication of satisfaction with weed control programs.

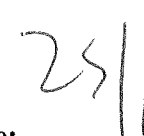
MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1. No. District parks refer to the urban parks such as Yerrabi Pond, John Knight Memorial Park, Lake Gininderra Peninsula District Park, etc.
2. The Market Attitude Research Services Pty Ltd (MARS) Survey concluded that 49% of ACT residents visited the Canberra Nature Park system during 2009-2010, with four or more visits being common. Visitors expressed high levels of satisfaction – 96% satisfaction in 2009-10 and 94% satisfaction in 2008-09.
3. A range of different methodologies were used during 2009-2010 by MARS:
 - (a) **ACT Community Survey** – 1,200 ACT community telephone survey interviews were conducted. Refusals to participate in the survey were quite low at 5%.
 - (b) **Town and District Parks – Visitor Surveys and Observations** – 29 Town and District Parks were visited from January to June 2010 to obtain 500 face-to-face interviews with visitors. Each of the parks was visited two to five times during this period on different days and in different weeks.
 - (c) **Canberra Nature Park – Visitor Surveys and Observations** – Nine of Canberra’s Nature Parks were each visited three to four times during the period January to June 2010 to record one hundred visitor interviews.

- (d) **Namadgi National Park – Visitor Surveys and Observations** – 100 face-to-face interviews were conducted from February to May 2010. These face-to-face interviews were complemented by 750 questionnaires.
 - (e) **Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve – Visitor Surveys and Observations** – 100 face-to-face interviews were conducted from February to May 2010. These face-to-face interviews were complemented by 750 questionnaires.
 - (f) **ACT Recreational Areas, Reserves, and Forest Recreational Areas – Visitor Surveys and Observations** – 300 visitor surveys were conducted during the period February to June 2010 at Googong Foreshores, Murrumbidgee River Corridor (Point Hut Crossing, and Pine Island), Lower Cotter Catchment (Cotter Bend and Casuarina Sands), and Molonglo Gorge.
4. The MARS survey did not specifically seek information about satisfaction with weed control programs and hence this information is unavailable.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services


Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 76)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

Could a report be provided on the summary of activities undertaken for both environmental weed control and vertebrate pest control on nature reserves and rural lands?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

Please see attached report.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Date:.....



ACT Parks and Conservation Service Vertebrate Pest Management Annual Report 2009-10



Photo O. Orgill

A Sambar Deer at Tharwa: feral deer are an emerging pest issue in the ACT

For more information:

Contact the Vertebrate Pests Coordinator | ACT Parks and Conservation Service | Department of Territory and Municipal Services
Ph: 02 6207 2135 | Address: Stromlo Depot, 500 Cotter Road, Weston ACT 2611

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Introduction

What is a pest animal?

A pest animal is a species that causes unsustainable environmental, social or economic damage to a valued resource. Pest animals include vertebrate species such as foxes and rabbits, which are covered by this report, and invertebrate species, for example the European wasp, which are reported on in the annual report for the European Wasp Awareness and Entomological Advice Service available from the TAMS City Services Pest Species Ranger.

Exotic animals that are regarded as pests in Australia share the following common attributes: potential for rapid population increase and spread, capacity to exploit favourable habitat changes, and an absence of natural predators and diseases. The *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* lists the animals that are declared as pests in the ACT.

Why control vertebrate pest animals?

Pest animals can have significant harmful impacts on biodiversity, productivity and urban amenities. They can have direct effects as competitors and predators, harbour parasites and diseases, cause habitat degradation, damage crops, pastures and agricultural assets, and reduce the safety and aesthetic value of urban open spaces.

How are vertebrate pest programs prioritised?

The requirement for pest management exceeds the resources available so pest programs must be prioritised to ensure efficient use of limited resources. Pest animal management project proposals are collated annually from District Rangers, the community eg. Park Care groups, and other ACT land managers.

An annual vertebrate pest program is developed by prioritising these proposals according to the framework outlined in the ACT Vertebrate Pest Management Strategy (ACT Government 2002).

On-going management projects (eg. feral pigs in Namadgi National Park, wild dogs at the rural/reserve interface, fox management in non-urban high conservation value reserves) aim to hold pest numbers below a level at which they cause unacceptable damage to Park amenity, rural enterprises, or biodiversity values.

New projects and associated follow-up control tackle new pest incursions or situations where pest numbers in a particular area have increased to a level where they are causing unsustainable damage.

When managing fecund and mobile pest species like rabbits it is very important to carryout follow-up control after a primary management program. This is because any individuals that remain after the primary program can rapidly breed up and reach pre-control numbers again. If follow-up is not conducted the initial investment in the primary control program will be wasted. For this reason, when resources are limited, priority is given to follow-up programs. As a consequence, reports on pest programs should focus on how many pests remain and what damage they are doing, not simply on how many pests were removed by the program.

Reporting on the annual vertebrate pest management program

This annual report presents a summary of the 2009 -10 vertebrate pest management program. The report presents information about management and monitoring of individual pest species, program coordination and staff training.

2009 –10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Wild dogs

Namadgi National Park (NP) and adjacent areas of timbered land in the ACT and surrounding NSW support populations of wild dogs (dingoes and 'dingo like' dogs which are dingoes with a small proportion of domestic dog genes).

Aims for wild dog management

- Minimise the negative impacts of wild dogs on agricultural production (sheep graziers) in the ACT and nearby NSW.
- Conserve a viable wild dog population in core areas of Namadgi NP to perform the role of higher order predator in natural ecosystems.

Cooperative wild dog and fox management plans

ACT Parks and Conservation Service (ACT PCS) manages wild dogs in cooperation with NSW as a signatory to regional wild dog and fox management plans. The Yaouk & Adaminaby Plan (2008 – 2013) is ongoing while the ACT became a signatory to the new Brindabella & Wee Jasper (2010 – 2015) Plan in June 2010. ACT PCS is working with the South East Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) and land holders in the Shannon's Flat, Michelago and Bredbo area to negotiate a cooperative wild dog and fox management plan for this area which is adjacent to Namadgi NP.



Wild dogs hunting rabbits at Gudgenby

O. Orgill

Management of wild dogs in 2009-10

Wild dogs are controlled in designated areas along the interface between reserve and rural land in the ACT and NSW to minimise attacks on sheep. Management involves 1080 poison baiting, M44 ejectors (spring-activated devices that propel 1080 poison into a dog or fox's mouth as it pulls on a bait head), trapping, and opportunistic shooting. This integrated approach also achieves effective fox management in dog control areas. In contrast, wild dogs are protected in core reserve areas including the Gudgenby Valley, Cotter Catchment and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve where they are the top order predator in the ecosystem.

In 2009-10 ACT PCS staff conducted regular (monthly) 1080 poison baiting along 23 separate baiting trails totalling 320 individual bait stations baited each month (see Map 1). Two new baiting areas (Blue Range and the southern end of the main Boboyan Road) were added during the year to improve cooperative baiting with NSW under the relevant wild dog management plans. All baits are buried to reduce non-target poisoning of native species such as quolls and scavenging birds. 1080 meat baits are supplied to ACT landholders for cooperative baiting; 260 baits were supplied to five landholders adjoining Namadgi NP in 2009-10.

ACT PCS's full time Vertebrate Pest Officer has primary responsibility for wild dog trapping, backed up by a contract dog trapper to cover peak dog activity periods in spring and autumn and annual leave. Traps used are rubber-lined leg hold traps. Table 1 presents data on wild dog trapping for 2009-10.

Table 1

2009-10 quarter	No. of traps	No. of trap nights*	No. of dogs trapped
Jul - Sep	244	2064	16
Oct - Dec	274	2386	18
Jan - Mar	348	3573	16
Apr - Jun	321	2132	15 (plus 1 shot)
Totals	1187	10155	66

* =no. of individual traps set x no. of nights each trap is set

2009–10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Wild dogs (continued)

Livestock losses due to wild dogs in 2009-10 were 59 sheep reported killed and 17 injured over eight properties which was the same as for 2008-09 (60 sheep killed, 17 injured). This is a great improvement on 2007-08 (193 sheep killed, 30 injured) and reflects the substantial increase in resources allocated to wild dog management by ACT PCS and in NSW by SE LHPA since September 2008. Wild dog attacks in the Booroomba and Naas areas account for 95% of the 2009-10 incidents and seem to be due to a small number of rogue dogs in these areas which are proving resistant to trapping and baiting efforts.

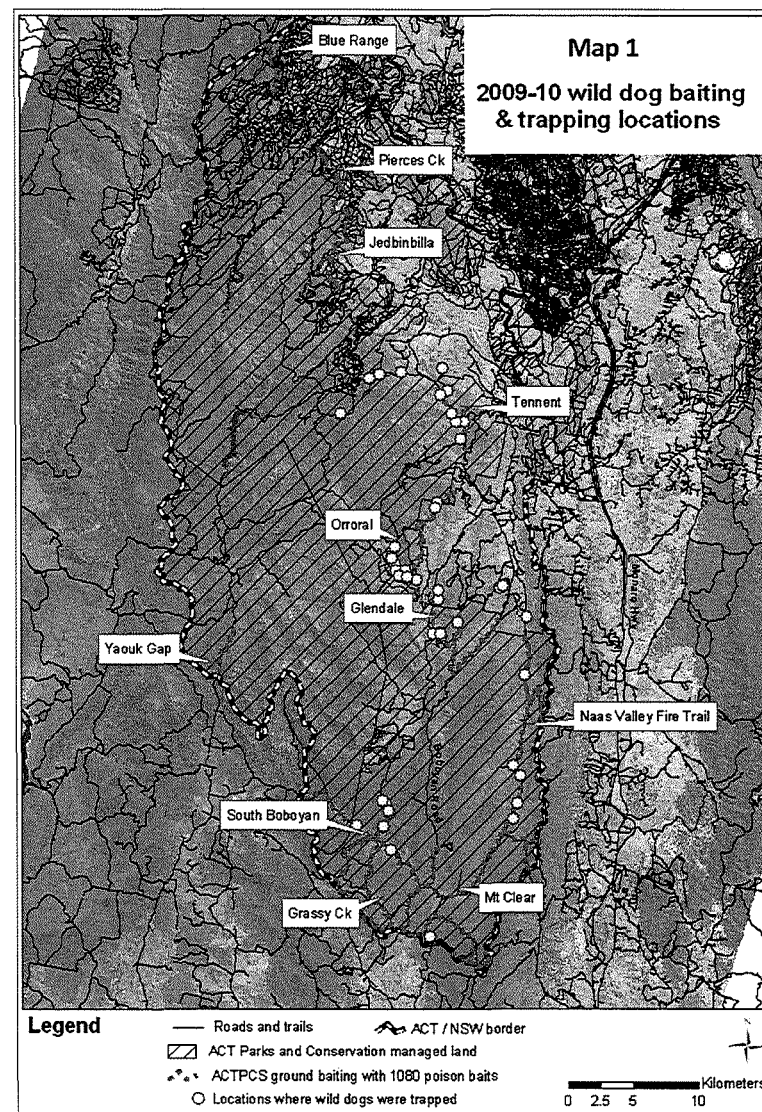
Wild dog monitoring

Wild dog and fox abundance was assessed by sand monitoring in November 2009 within the dog control area in southern Namadgi NP as being scarce (CSIRO index : dog - 1% plots showed prints, fox - 0% plots showed prints) indicating the effectiveness of the 1080 baiting program in this area.

At Gudgenby Valley, where wild dogs are protected, their abundance is monitored during the long-term quarterly spotlight counts as sand pads are not effective in grassland where animals do not routinely use tracks. These counts show a trend for a slight increase in wild dog abundance since 2006.

Reporting

More detailed information on wild dog management is available for stakeholders through quarterly ACT Wild Dog Management Updates which can be obtained from the ACT PCS Vertebrate Pests Coordinator, Ph. 62072135. Reports are also prepared for each regional wild dog management plan meeting and for biannual meetings of the National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group for which ACT PCS provides the ACT representative.



2009–10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Foxes

Foxes are ubiquitous in the ACT but effective management over large areas is constrained by restrictions on the use of 1080 poison close to residential areas, and by limited ACT PCS resources for 1080 poisoning in non-urban reserves.

Aims for fox management

- Undertake fox baiting in identified reserves to reduce predation on native species.
- Assist the rural community to manage impacts on primary production by encouraging coordinated baiting programs across all land tenures.

Management of foxes in 2009-10

Landscape scale, strategic poisoned baiting is the most effective method of fox control available and forms the basis of ACT PCS fox management programs.

Table 2 Fox baiting programs conducted by ACT PCS in 2009-10

Reserve	Baiting regime	Purpose	Monitoring
Goongong NR	Monthly	Native species protection and lamb protection	Sand pads Oct '09 Medium fox abundance (20% of plots showed prints)
Rob Roy NR & Gigerline NR	Monthly (Rob Roy), Winter & Autumn (Gigerline)	Native species protection and lamb protection	Sand pads Nov '09 Medium fox abundance (20% of plots showed prints)
East Jerrabomberra Grasslands	Autumn	Native species protection and lamb protection – baiting in cooperation with surrounding graziers prior to Autumn lambing	Not currently monitored – would require spotlight monitoring as foxes will not routinely use tracks in open grassland
Mulligans Flat Sanctuary	Monthly baiting outside perimeter	Eradicate foxes for native species protection & reintroduction	Sand pads at bait sites. Bait take 59%

Foxes also take many of the 1080 poison baits laid for wild dogs. Fox abundance is therefore likely to be low in areas where regular poisoned baiting occurs for wild dog control (see Map 1). This was demonstrated by the scarcity of foxes at the southern end of Namadgi NP during the sand pad monitoring in November 2009. Foxes are also often caught in traps set for wild dogs. Forty foxes were trapped in dog traps in 2009-10.

ACT PCS oversees the supply and use of all 1080 products in the ACT and is the sole provider for 1080 poison bait required by other ACT land managers. Commercially available fox baits are currently not registered for use by the manufacturers in the ACT, requiring ACT PCS to hold an Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) 'minor use' permit to use and supply the fox baits in the ACT. In 2009-10 ACT PCS issued 450 1080 fox baits to landholders/ managers for use on rural leased land in the ACT. Of these baits 200 were used for cooperative baiting programs on land adjacent to baited ACT PCS reserves.

Urban foxes

Foxes are a nuisance pest in the suburbs of Canberra particularly when they kill backyard poultry. Unfortunately there is currently no effective means of managing urban fox impacts due to the likelihood of 1080 poisoning of domestic animals if the suburbs and Canberra Nature Parks were baited. Householders can attempt to cage-trap individual nuisance foxes, however this is inevitably a short-term solution as the fox territory will soon be filled by another fox due to the high abundance of the animals in suburbs and adjacent reserves. There is currently only one business licensed under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* to undertake commercial trapping of nuisance foxes in the ACT.

2009 –10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Rabbits

Rabbits impact on natural and rural systems causing a loss of vegetation cover which exacerbates erosion and threatens the survival of native birds, small mammals and insects that rely on groundcover plants for food and shelter. Rabbit numbers have been increasing in the ACT and in all other Australian jurisdictions over the last five years due to a failure to use conventional methods of rabbit control to capitalise on low rabbit numbers following introduction of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (Rabbit Calicivirus Disease) in 1995.

As with other fast-breeding, mobile pest species like foxes, effective, sustained management of rabbits relies on coordinated management at the landscape scale to prevent re-colonisation from neighbouring un-treated areas. Follow-up of primary control programs is also vital to prevent any remaining rabbits rapidly breeding up to reach pre-management numbers.

Aims for rabbit management

- Manage rabbit populations to minimise negative impacts on natural and cultural heritage values, and on adjacent agricultural and suburban lands.
- Assist the rural community and other land managers to manage impacts on primary production and assets by encouraging coordinated rabbit control programs across land tenures.

Management of rabbits in 2009-10

\$150,000 was received for rabbit management in 2009-10 as part of the 2008 pre-election commitment of \$500,000 for rabbit management in ACT reserves over the term of the present Government. A further \$40,000 sourced from efficiencies in other recurrent funds and from rural land budgets, permitted rabbits to be treated on some areas of unleased land which adjoin nature reserves. Priority for rabbit management was given to follow-up works on reserves that had been treated in 2008 and 2009. Table 3 details the ACT PCS rabbit management program over the last 3 years, showing how priority is given to funding follow-up programs before primary control is initiated in new areas.

Table 3

Reserve	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Duntroon Dairy	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Aranda bushland/ snow gums	Ongoing		Ongoing
Mulligans Flat / Goorooyarroo	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Pinnacle / Kama	Primary control	Follow -up	Follow -up
Red Hill	Primary control		Follow -up
Mt Majura/Ainslie		Primary control	Follow -up
W. Jerrabomberra Grasslands		Primary control	Follow -up
Mt Painter			Primary control
Callum Brae			Primary control
Jerrabomberra Wetlands			Primary control

Broad scale primary and follow-up programs were undertaken by contractors under supervision of ACT PCS staff, while ongoing maintenance rabbit work was carried out by ACT PCS staff. The method of control was dependent on the individual site but generally involved a combination of warren ripping, fumigation with phosphine gas, and poisoning with pindone or 1080.

Cooperative rabbit management programs

Adjoining land managers were invited to participate in cooperative rabbit management programs. Advice was provided on the most effective and appropriate rabbit management technique and poisoned bait provided where necessary. Cooperative programs run in 2009-10 involved Canturf and ACTEW for Jerrabomberra Wetlands, rural properties and the Therapeutic Goods Administration for Callum Brae and East Jerrabomberra Grassland reserves, and the Pialligo residents, Yarralumla (Pialligo) Nursery, the Australian War Memorial, and Department of Defence for Mt Ainslie Nature Reserve.

Community involvement in rabbit management

As in 2008-09, Park Care volunteers played a vital role in rabbit programs by recording, GPS locating and marking rabbit warrens at Mt Majura, Mt Ainslie, Watson Woodlands, Pinnacle and Red Hill nature reserves prior to the engagement of rabbit management contractors. This work by volunteers saved

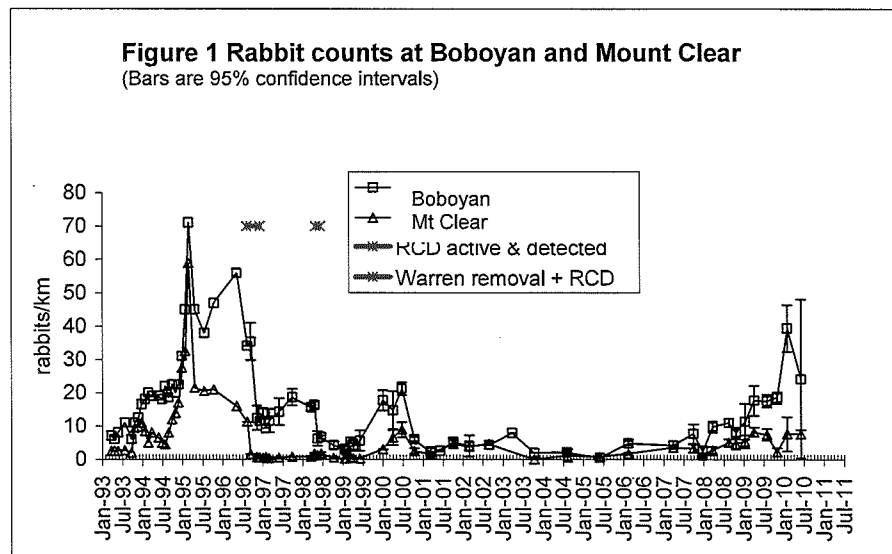
2009–10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Rabbits (continued)

hours of contractor and staff time in searching for rabbit burrows resulting in efficiencies as contractors could concentrate on actual rabbit management which involves techniques that are generally not suitable to be undertaken by volunteers (heavy machinery, hard manual labour and hazardous chemicals).

Monitoring

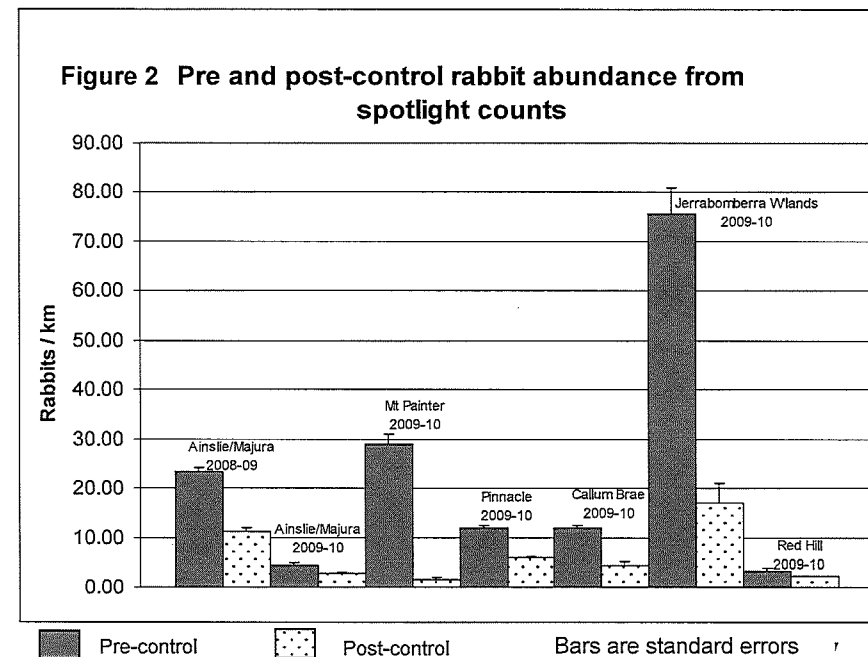
Rabbit populations are monitored by counting rabbits observed by spotlight while driving transects of known length to give an index of rabbit abundance expressed as rabbits per kilometre. Long-term spotlight monitoring within Namadgi NP was continued in 2009-10 with counts conducted in August, November, February and June. Counts show rabbit numbers are increasing on all transects with the greatest increase in rabbits/km at Orroral (25 rabbits/km, up to 141 rabbits/km when the Orroral tracking station is included), Glendale (19 rabbits/km), and Boboyan (24 rabbits/km - see Figure 1) in June 2010.



It is likely that the poisoning of wild dogs and foxes at south Boboyan for protection of sheep in neighbouring NSW has contributed to the large increase in rabbit numbers in this area of the park. The removal of these rabbit predators makes areas like south Boboyan, the south east end of the Orroral Valley and Glendale a priority for rabbit management in the near future.

Long-term spotlight monitoring at Tidbinbilla and Googong nature reserves shows 2009-10 rabbit numbers at Tidbinbilla have increased from 2005 levels while rabbit numbers on transects at Googong appear stable.

Spotlight counts are also used to assess the effectiveness of each rabbit management program by counting rabbits along the same transects before and after management. Figure 2 summarises rabbit abundance before and after management at sites treated in 2009-10.



2009–10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Feral Pigs

Feral pigs are widely distributed throughout the non-urban parks and reserves managed by ACT PCS. Ground rooting by pigs creates bare ground causing loss of visual amenity for park visitors and contributing to erosion and weed invasion. Pigs have a varied diet including small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, bird's eggs, soil invertebrates and roots and tubers of native plants. On rural land they plough up pasture, kill lambs, damage fencing and are a potential vector for several serious endemic and exotic livestock diseases. eg. foot and mouth disease. The presence of pigs also encourages illegal pig hunting on public and leased land with associated vandalism of infrastructure and anti-social behaviour by hunters.

Aims for feral pig management

- Maintain feral pig populations and resulting impacts on public land at current low levels.
- Assist the rural community and other land managers to manage impacts on primary production by encouraging coordinated pig control programs across land tenures.



Feral pig ground rooting damage at Rob Roy NR

Management of pigs in 2009-10

Pigs are another fast-breeding and mobile pest species for which poisoned baiting is the most effective form of management over large areas. The annual Namadgi NP feral pig poisoning program was conducted in May, with 2010 being the second year in which 1080 was used as the pig toxin over the majority of the park. Prior to this, from the mid-eighties until 2008, feral pig numbers have been successfully suppressed using warfarin toxin in wheat baits. However, due to animal welfare concerns use of warfarin is due to be phased out across Australia by 2013. The 2010 Namadgi NP pig program was designed to trial the viability of using the commercial 1080 pig bait known as PIGOUT® across the entire park. A support officer was employed to oversee data collection, analysis and reporting on the program which used remote fauna cameras on bait stations to determine the acceptance of PIGOUT® by pigs in the field.

As in previous years pigs were baited over eleven baiting runs totalling 117 road sections across the park. A further two remote areas (Booth Range and Blue Gum) were baited with the use of a helicopter. After pig feeding was initiated and confirmed using wheat, unpoisoned and then poisoned PIGOUT® bait was laid under rigid plastic tubs secured to the ground by pegs. Pigs were able to flip the tubs but non-target species could not access the bait. The three week field program used 3.7 tonnes of wheat and resulted in 38 bait stations being established for the placement of PIGOUT®. Of the PIGOUT® baits placed, 54.5% of unpoisoned baits and 49.4% of poison baits were taken by pigs. A total of 79 individual pigs were identified from camera footage visiting bait stations, of which an estimated 41 (52%) were successfully baited based on individual pigs that did not reappear on remote camera footage. Baiting was augmented by trapping to target pigs that consistently returned to stations yet refused to take PIGOUT®. Thirteen of these pigs were removed by trapping. A total of 1358 staff hours were involved in undertaking the Namadgi NP pig program.

2009 –10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Feral Pigs (continued)

No pigs were reported at Tidbinbilla NR in 2009-10. At Googong NR 21 pigs were removed by trapping or shooting.

Cooperative pig management

As in previous years ACT land holders adjoining Namadgi NP and other non-urban reserves were invited to participate in cooperative pig management programs with ACT PCS and offered free poisoned bait if they required it. Of 61 letters sent only two land holders responded, one of whom subsequently conducted a pig trapping program.

ACT PCS also liaises annually with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW NPWS) to coordinate cooperative management of pigs in Brindabella NP and Bimberi NR which adjoin Namadgi NP. Through the Australian Alps National Parks cooperative management program, staff from NSW NPWS and Parks Victoria attended the ACT PCS Namadgi staff 2010 pig program briefing session to discuss pig management techniques and learn about the Namadgi pig program.

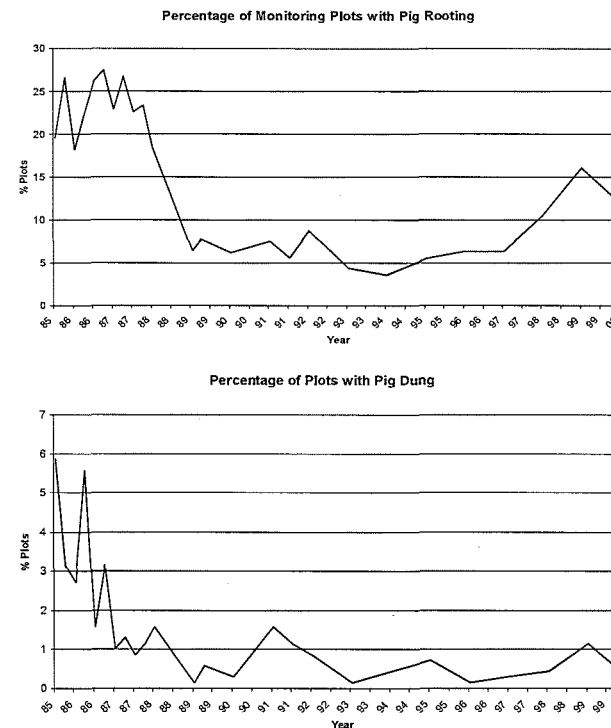


Remote camera photo of a boar feeding at a bait station

Monitoring

The abundance of pigs in Namadgi NP has been assessed annually since the mid-eighties by Professor Jim Hone (University of Canberra) by looking at pig dung and ground rooting damage on 700 monitoring plots in the park. The data show the dramatic decline in pig abundance and ground rooting impact resulting from the instigation of the annual baiting program in Namadgi NP in the mid-eighties (Figure 3). The monitoring program has now concluded and ACT PCS is currently planning a follow-on pig impact monitoring program for Namadgi NP. Monitoring of impacts will be particularly important over the next few years to assess the effectiveness of the new 1080 baiting regime in suppressing the feral pig population.

Figure 3



2009 –10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Feral Horses

Small herds of feral horses began appearing on the Bimberi Range which forms the south-western boundary between Namadgi NP and Kosciuszko NP in about 2001. Prior to this time feral horses had been eradicated from Namadgi NP in 1987. Horse numbers increased to 18 by 2006 and without management were predicted to exceed the 200 that were present in the early sixties. The presence of feral horses within Namadgi NP is of particular concern because of their potential to damage the sensitive sub-alpine wetlands of the Cotter Catchment. These wetlands include the Sphagnum bogs that provide habitat for the endangered Northern Corroboree Frog.

Aims for feral horse management

The Namadgi NP Feral Horse Management Plan was released in 2007 to guide management of feral horses in the park. The Plan has two objectives:

- Removal of the current feral horses (and therefore their impact) from the park.
- Reduction of the requirement for on-going feral horse control in the park.

The Namadgi NP Feral Horse Management Plan (2007) is available from the TAMS website at: http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/pcl/pestsandweeds/feral_horse_management

Management of feral horses in 2009-10

The feral horse management program ran from 14 May until 24 June 2010, having been delayed until after the installation of new infrastructure (see below). One horse was trapped from the herd that use Bimberi Flat, bringing the total removed from Jack's and Bimberi Flats to 20 animals over the last four years and leaving only four known horses at Bimberi. Jack's Flat remained free of horses for the second year since the removal of horses in 2007 and 2008. Horses are attracted into a trap yard using salt and are captured using a one way

gate. Following sedation administered by a dart the horses are euthanased by head shot. Only two staff are involved in this operation at the trap yard to minimise stress on the captured animals. The areas used by horses are located in rugged terrain which is remote from access roads requiring carcasses to be lifted from the trap yards by helicopter to a truck at the nearest vehicle access.

Monitoring

In April a remote camera was installed on the Bimberi horse trap. This technology substantially reduces program costs by permitting the trap to be checked daily from a desk via the internet, eliminating the previous requirement for a helicopter to conduct daily reconnaissance. The savings will permit the horse trapping program to run for months rather than weeks, increasing the likelihood of capturing horses at this site.



Installing the remote camera at Bimberi Flat

2009 –10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Feral horses (continued)

Feral horse numbers and locations in Namadgi NP are assessed by regular aerial survey from helicopters involved in the horse program and other programs including pigs, fire and bog surveys. Feral horse impact at Jack's and Bimberi Flats is monitored annually by photo points as part of the bogs monitoring project.



Feral horse rolling area creating bare ground in grassland above the Sphagnum bog at Bimberi Flat (2006)

Cooperative feral horse management

Through the Australian Alps National Parks cooperative management program, ACT PCS maintains close links with NSW NPWS and Parks Victoria in relation to feral horse management. In 2010 members of the Alps Feral Horse working group collaborated to submit a funding bid to the Alps program for a three part research project into feral horse impacts, measuring horse density, and community attitudes to feral horse management. It is anticipated that knowledge gained from the study will facilitate and improve management of feral horses across the Australian Alps in the future.

ACT PCS maintains regular contact with NSW NPWS in relation to feral horse management in Kosciuszko NP as feral horses from northern Kosciuszko are the source of the herds which establish in Namadgi NP. ACT PCS has provided a trap yard to assist with capture of horses from the border area which will be undertaken in accordance with the Kosciuszko NP Horse Management Plan (2008) using traps placed near roads to permit live transport of captured animals. If achievable, removal of most horses from this adjoining area of Kosciuszko NP will eventually largely eliminate future requirement for regular feral horse control on the ACT side of the border.

The Kosciuszko NP Horse Management Plan (2008) is available at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/KnpHorseMgmtplan.htm>

2009 –10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Feral Deer

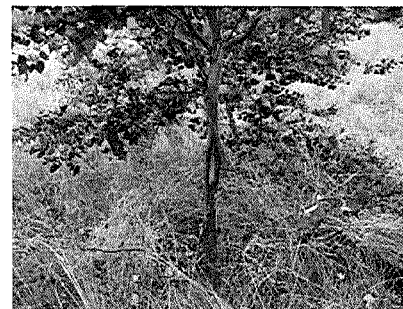
Deer sightings in the ACT have been steadily increasing over the last ten years. Of the six species of feral deer in Australia three presently occur in the ACT. Fallow Deer are the most abundant and widely distributed species, occurring in small groups in river valleys including the Murrumbidgee, Naas, Paddy's and the Molonglo Rivers. Small numbers are also present in woodland reserves in north-eastern ACT. Red Deer are present in the Naas Valley and adjoining areas of Namadgi NP. Sambar Deer sightings have shown a marked increase in the last two years and they are now present in low numbers throughout the northern and western parts of Namadgi NP and adjoining rural land.

Experience from other parts of Australia indicates that as deer numbers increase they will have negative impacts on both public and rural land. In natural habitats deer can cause over grazing and tracking leading to erosion and their selective browsing can affect threatened plant species and communities. The wallowing behaviour of Sambar Deer could have a very serious impact on sub-alpine bogs in Namadgi NP given the species' preference for small opens glades surrounded by thicker forested habitat.

On farm, deer compete with livestock, damage crops and plantations, and destroy fencing. They are known to transmit a number of diseases important to the viability of the export and domestic trade including Ovine and Bovine Johnes Disease, along with zoonotic infections such as tuberculosis and Q-fever which can infect humans. As deer numbers increase, motor vehicle collisions with deer will also become a serious concern.

Aims for feral deer management

- Promote knowledge of deer species and their impacts among ACT PCS staff and the wider ACT community, and support research projects on deer management and ecology.
- Conduct opportunistic shooting of deer on ACT PCS managed land where safe to do so.



Impact of deer includes damage to trees from antler rubbing: Fallow deer rub tree at Naas (left) and Sambar Deer rub tree at Bendora (right).

Management of feral deer in 2009-10

Management of deer poses a challenge to public and private land managers due to the animals' cryptic and wary behaviour. Ground shooting is a time consuming and therefore costly exercise, but is currently the most effective technique available for reducing deer populations. There are no registered toxins for poisoning deer and, while trapping is possible, there are animal welfare concerns with such flighty animals becoming badly injured in traps.

Deer reported shot by ACT PCS during 2009-10 are listed in Table 4.

Table 4

Date	Deer species	Number	Sex	Location
August '09	Red	2	Male	Naas
May '10	Fallow	1	Male	Naas
May '10	Red	2	Male	Naas
June '10	Fallow	1	Male	Naas

2009–10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Feral Deer (continued)

ACT PCS plan to conduct a trial in 2010-11 of the use of timed wildlife feeders as a means of attracting deer to a particular location to improve the efficiency and safety of shooting programs.

Monitoring

A feral deer workshop was held in September 2009 to improve the knowledge held by ACT PCS staff about deer and their impacts. Speakers included deer researchers and NSW NPWS personnel involved in deer management at Royal National Park. A site visit to Naas demonstrated deer sign and impacts along the Naas River.

A deer sightings register was established in 2008-09 for reports from staff, land holders and the public. There were 26 sightings reported in 2009-10 of which 15 records were Fallow, 6 Red, 2 Sambar and 3 where the species was not recorded. Only one record, of Fallow Deer on the eastern side of Mount Ainslie, was outside the presently recorded range for any of the species in the ACT.

Cooperative feral deer management

Feral deer are a declared pest species under the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* and can therefore be culled by ACT rural land holders provided shooting is conducted humanely. A standard operating procedure for Ground Shooting of Wild Deer is available under Humane Pest Animal Control Codes of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures issued by NSW Department of Primary Industry (DPI) in 2005. This is available at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/vertebrate-pests/codes/humane-pest-animal-control>

The Winter 2010 edition of *Landnews*, the newsletter produced by ACT PCS for the ACT rural community contained an article and identification guide on feral deer.

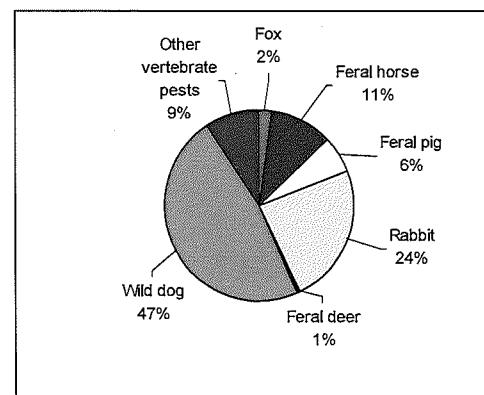
Other vertebrate pests

Goats were the other main pest species controlled by ACT PCS during 2009-10. Seven goats were shot at Googong Nature Reserve and ten from Gigerline Nature Reserve and the lower Molonglo. Approximately 60 goats were mustered from the Molonglo River corridor near Coppins Crossing to protect the nearby ACT Arboretum.

Vertebrate Pest Coordination

The Vertebrate Pests Coordinator develops, coordinates and reports on the annual vertebrate pest program, and liaises with other ACT and NSW land managers to arrange cooperative pest programs, and provide extension advice in the ACT. The Coordinator also oversees vertebrate pest contracts including tender processes, and maintains vertebrate pest chemical permits. The Coordinator is directly responsible for managing the wild dog and feral horse programs, which is reflected in the breakdown of percentage time spent on operational management and reporting on different pests (Figure 4). In 2009-10 the 'other' pests category mainly involved goats and enquires about pest birds including Indian myna birds, pigeons and peacocks.

Figure 4 Percentage time spent by the Vertebrate Pests Coordinator on operational management and reporting on different pests



Data obtained from
PCL ABC reporting

2009 –10 Vertebrate Pest Management Program

Vertebrate Pest Training

The Vertebrate Pests Coordinator is also responsible for ensuring maintenance of skills in vertebrate pest management across ACT PCS Districts. ACT PCS staff attended the following training related to vertebrate pest management in 2009-10 (Table 5).

Table 5

Course	Date	Number of staff attending
NSW DPI Vertebrate Pest Management Course (Orange)	April '10	3
NSW DPI 1080 poison handling	Dec ' 09	1
NSW DPI 1080 poison handling	June '10	7
Chemcert IV	Nov '09	7
Chemcert IV	June '10	10
Diploma in Conservation and Land Management (specialising in Vertebrate Pest Management)	Feb '10 – Dec '10	1 (self funded and organised by the staff member)



Environmental Weed Control Annual Report 2009-10

20 June 2010



Dead Sweet Briars - Sprayed with Selective Herbicide at Googong Foreshores. These woody weeds were smothering a native grassland. The white fuzz in the centre of the photo are seed heads from native wildflowers – mainly New Holland Daisy.

Environmental Weeds & Natural Resource Protection
National Parks, Reserves & Rural Land
ACT Parks & Conservation

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What is an Environmental Weed?

Environmental weeds are weeds that invade natural areas. The worst environmental weeds form mono-cultures - smothering native plants. Most environmental weeds are exotic or introduced plants from overseas (eg. Blackberry from Europe, Serrated Tussock from South America). Some environmental weeds are native plants that have spread out of their natural range (eg. Cootamundra Wattle planted throughout SE Australia).

Why Control Environmental or Invasive Weeds?

"Weeds have major negative economic, environmental and social impacts in the ACT. They cause damage to nature conservation assets and values, reduce primary industries productivity, detract from urban landscapes and recreational amenity and interfere with the ecological and other functions of waterways. Land that harbours weed species can be a source of infestation for other areas."

Source: ACT Weeds Strategy 2009-19 – ACT Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water

"Invasive weeds are among the most serious threats to Australia's natural environment and primary production industries. They displace native species, contribute significantly to land degradation, and reduce farm and forest productivity. Australia spends considerable time and money each year in combating weed problems and protecting ecosystems and primary production on private and public land."

Source: Weeds in Australia – Australian Government - <http://www.weeds.gov.au/>

"Environmental weeds are plants that represent a threat to the conservation values of natural ecosystems. They invade native plant communities and out-compete them causing a reduction in plant diversity and resulting in a loss of habitat for native animals."

Source: Environmental Weeds – NSW Department of Primary Industry -

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/definition#Environmental-weeds>

Reporting on the Environmental Weed Control Operations Plan

An Environmental Weed Control Operations Plan (EWOP) is produced annually by ACT Parks & Conservation (ACT Parks).

The EWOP lists projects that have been selected for funding. Follow up weed control and projects in high conservation value areas receive the highest priority for funding. This is in line with one of the major goals of the ACT Weeds Strategy 2009-19.

However a large proportion of the budgets are tied to particular areas or new initiatives. These budgets must be spent on projects in the areas the budgets were intended for – even if they do not have the highest conservation priority across the ACT.

This annual report contains a summary of the environmental weed control expenditure from the 2009-10 EWOP, including a comparison with expenditure in recent years.

An assessment is also made about whether ACT Parks is making progress towards the 2019 targets for environmental weed control listed in the EWOP.

Environmental Weed Control Expenditure by Area

The areas listed in the chart comprise 172,564 ha or approximately 73% of the ACT. Googong Foreshores at 4,557ha is also managed by ACT Parks & Conservation (ACT Parks). This agency also monitors compliance with land management agreements for leased land.

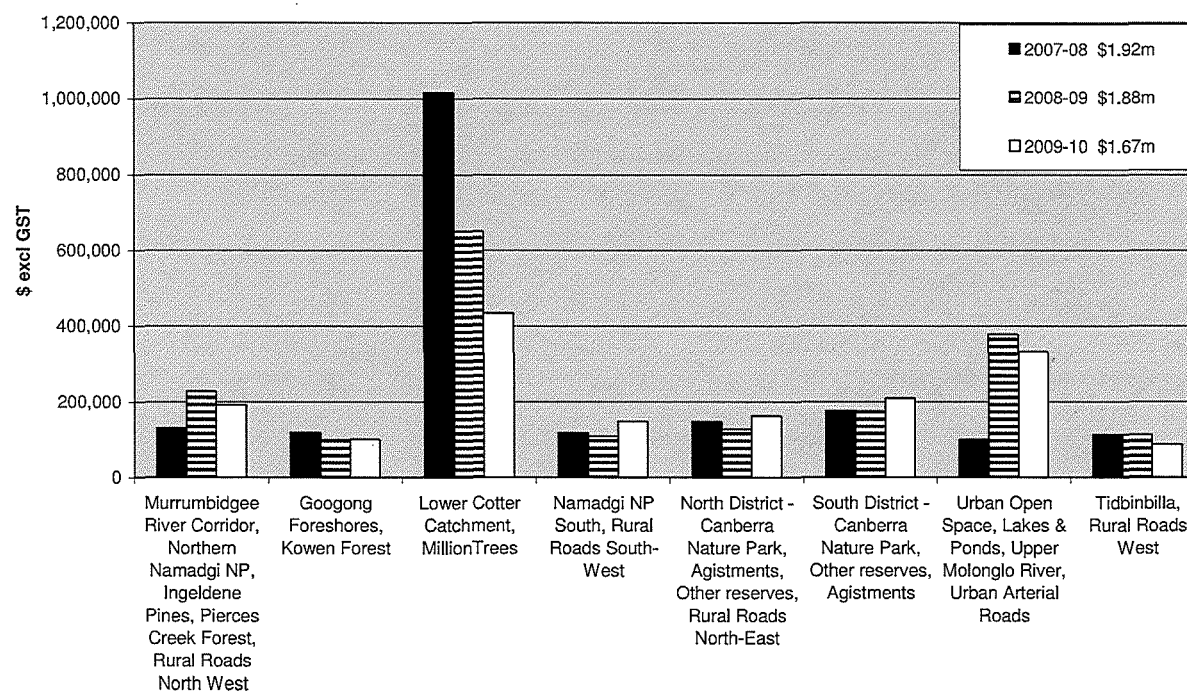
In 2009-10 \$1.7m was spent on environmental weed control contracts on land managed by ACT Parks.

The amount is less than previous years due to the decline in expenditure in the Lower Cotter Catchment.

Expenditure in the North and South Districts combined was double that spent in Namadgi National Park. This reflects the high cost of managing Tablelands grassy woodlands and grasslands compared to the far more extensive forested areas in Namadgi National Park.

The Tableland or lowland grassy ecosystems are very prone to invasion from some of the most invasive environmental weeds, eg. Serrated Tussock & African Lovegrass. The grassy ecosystem reserves have very high levels of disturbance which favours such environmental weeds. They are also surrounded by gardens and open space areas containing woody weeds with berries that are spread by birds.

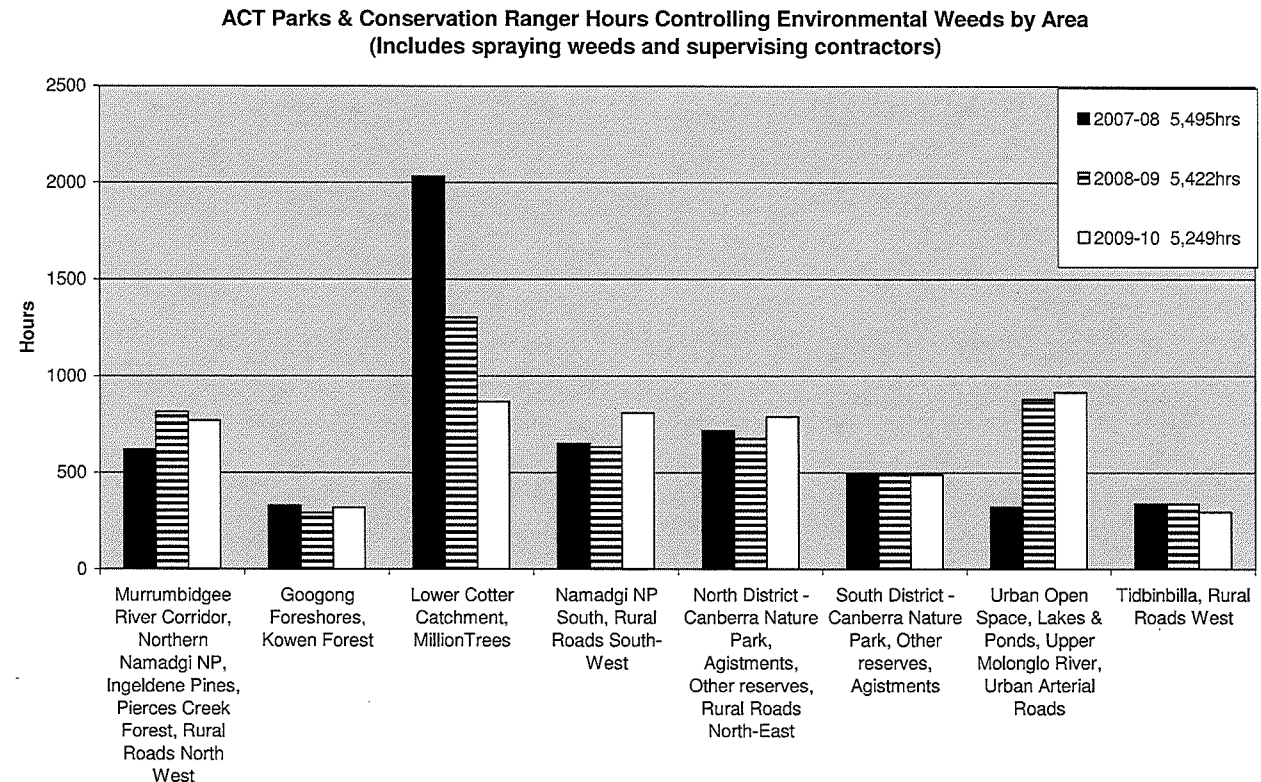
Environmental Weed Control by Area on Land Managed by ACT Parks & Conservation



Ranger Hours Controlling Environmental Weeds Control by Area

ACT Parks Rangers control environmental weeds in two main ways: supervising weed control contractors and doing the work themselves.

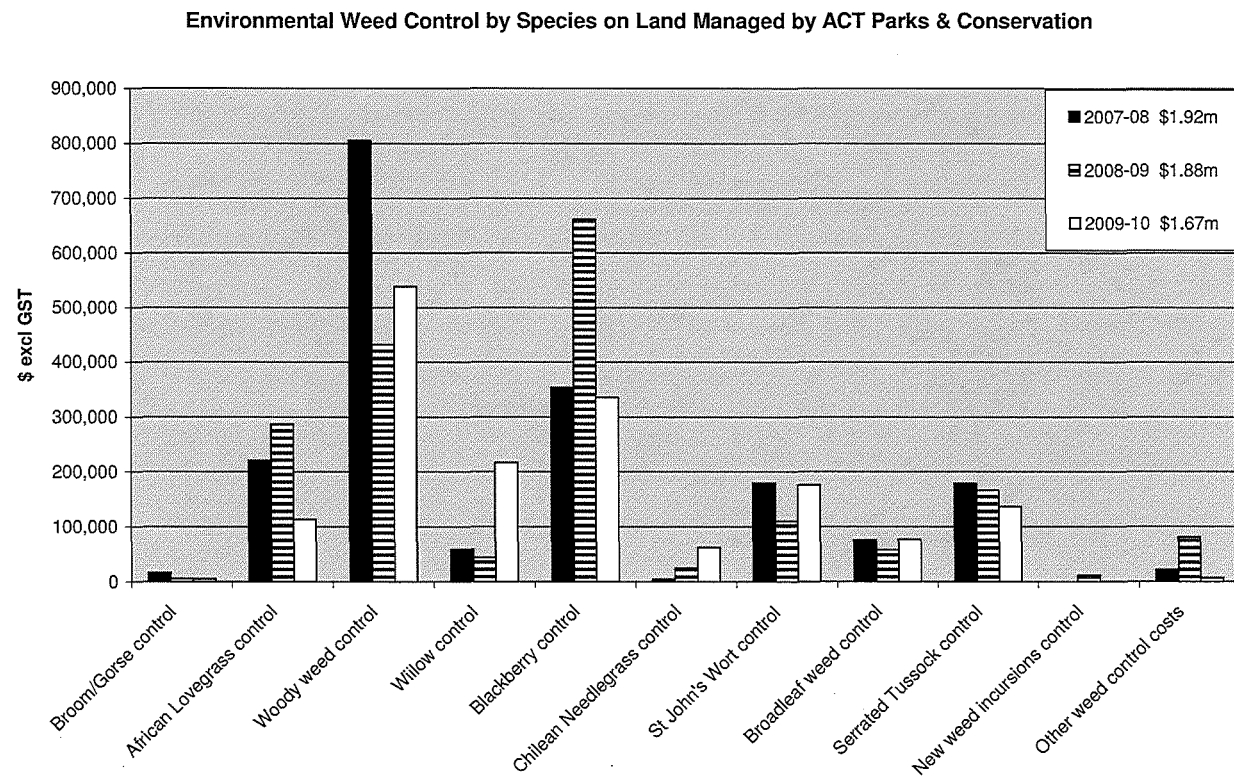
Most of the environmental weed control involves spraying or cutting and painting environmental weed infestations with herbicides. Other control techniques used are grazing management (control of rabbits, kangaroos & livestock), prescribed burning and revegetation.



Environmental Weed Control Expenditure by Species

The dominance of Blackberry and Woody Weed Control is due to the control work on these types of environmental weeds in the Lower Cotter Catchment (LCC).

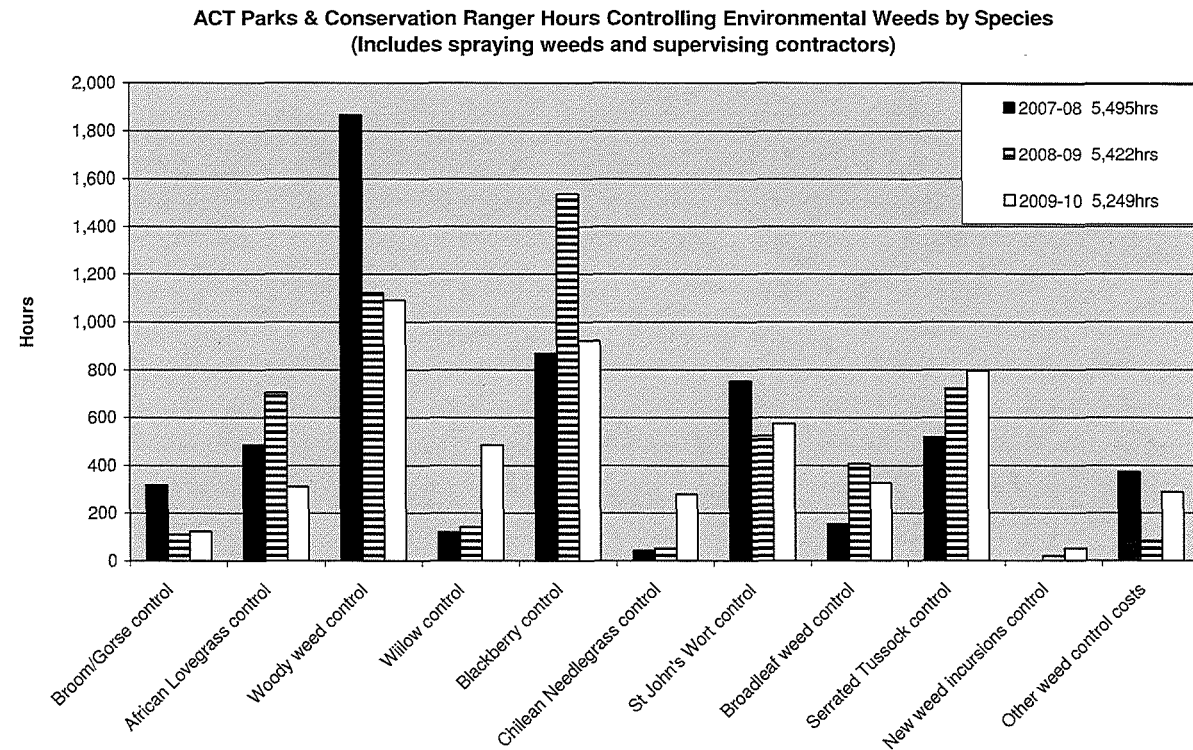
The LCC was a Radiata Pine Plantation destroyed by the 2003 fire storm. After the fire storm Blackberry spread rapidly because competition had been removed. The area is being restored to native vegetation.



Ranger Hours Controlling Environmental Weeds by Species

The total hours spent on environmental weed control is equivalent to having two Rangers working full time on environmental weed control.

Weed Control contractors (supervised by the ACT Parks Rangers) control the larger infestations, leaving the smaller follow-up or new incursion work to the Rangers.



Other Weed Control in the ACT – Not listed in this Report

Stromlo Forest Park (Canberra Venues & Events), NCA, Defence Dept, ANBG and LDA lands
ACT Parks & Conservation managed land - Rural roads furniture & table drain regrowth Government Horse paddocks Parkcare Pre-planting weed control for Pine Plantations Special projects undertaken by Project Rangers eg. Jerrabomberra Grasslands NR
Amenity weed control in urban areas (La-trobe Park Depot and other depots of City Services)
Weed Control on rural leases (ACT Rural Landholders Association)

Targets for Environmental Weed Control by 2019

Targets (Decision Matrix 1) for environmental weed control have been set in the EWOP. This is so that an objective measurement can be made about outcomes of expenditure and whether the goals of the ACT Weeds Strategy 2009-19 are being met. Table 1 defines the decision matrix categories.

Decision Matrix 1 – 2019 Targets for Cover of Environmental Weed Species Type

		Land type						
		High conservation value areas a	High value agricultural land b	Parkland adjoining high value areas c	Rural & arterial roadsides adjoining high value areas d	Lowland riparian e	Other natural areas f	Other parkland g
Invasiveness	New Invasive Weed Incursion into the ACT 1	Eradicate 1a	Eradicate 1b	Eradicate 1c	Eradicate 1d	Eradicate 1e	Eradicate 1f	Eradicate 1g
	Extremely & Very Highly Invasive 2	Reduce to isolated infestations 2a	Reduce to isolated infestations 2b	Reduce to isolated infestations 2c	Reduce to isolated infestations 2d	Reduce % cover 2e	Reduce % cover 2f	Reduce % cover 2g
	Highly invasive 3	Reduce % cover 3a	Reduce % cover 3b	Reduce % cover 3c	Reduce % cover 3d	Reduce % cover 3e	Reduce % cover 3f	Reduce % cover 3g
	Moderately invasive 4	Reduce % cover 4a	Reduce % cover 4b	Reduce % cover 4c	Reduce % cover 4d	Reduce % cover 4e	No target ¹	No target
	Least invasive	No target	No target	No target	No target	No target	No target	No target

¹ The Government Horse Paddocks have a target of 5% cover or less for Paterson's Curse.

Table 1- Decision Matrix - Explanatory Notes

New Invasive Weed Incursion into the ACT

- Eg: Mexican Feathergrass, Giant Willowherb, African Fountain Grass, Mouse-Ear Hawkweed, Madagascan Fire weed, Turkey Rhubarb

Invasiveness of environmental weeds

Extremely Invasive

- Rapidly form mono-cultures in un-disturbed areas
- Rate of spread is so rapid that even small infestations are difficult to contain.
Eg: Mexican Feathergrass

Very Highly Invasive

- Rapidly form mono-cultures in un-disturbed areas
- Eg: Alligator Weed, Serrated Tussock, Chilean Needlegrass, African Lovegrass, St John's Wort

Highly Invasive

- Form mono-cultures in un-disturbed areas
- Eg: Blackberry, African Boxthorn, Gorse, Brooms, Crack Willow, Firethorns, Sweet Briar, Hawthorn, Bathurst Burr, Cootamundra Wattle, Nettle Tree, Cotoneaster, Black Alder

Moderately Invasive

- Readily form mono-cultures in disturbed areas
- Eg: Paterson's Curse, Vipers Bugloss, Sweet Vernal Grass, Nodding Thistle, Saffron Thistle, Verbascum, Caltrop or Catshead, Capeweed, Scotch Thistle, Catsear

Least invasive or ruderals

- Only form mono-cultures in disturbed areas (includes amenity weeds)
- Eg: Wild Oats, Barley Grass, Mustard Weed, Horehound, Fleabane, Fat Hen, Brome grasses, Feathertop Rhodes Grass, Horehound, Galium

Definitions: **Environmental weeds** are weeds that invade un-disturbed natural areas and/or agricultural land. **Ruderals** are mainly weeds of highly disturbed land. **Mono-cultures** result from the weed smothering desirable vegetation and dominating the area. A **disturbed area** is a site where vegetation cover or a protective litter layer has been removed. The disturbance can be caused by: over-grazing, fire, earthworks, drought & floods. **Noxious weeds or Pest Plants** are terms used for invasive weeds that are listed in weed control legislation

High Conservation Value Areas

Rare or threatened ecological communities

- Yellow Box-Red Gum Tableland Grassy Woodland, Tableland Grasslands, Snow Gum-Candle Bark Tableland Woodland, Montane & Sub-Alpine Bog (due to damage from 2003 fires), Subalpine Herbfield (at risk from global warming), Alpine Ash Montane Tall Forest (due to losses in 2003 fires), Brown Barrel Montane Forest (more common outside of ACT)

Habitat for rare or threatened species

- Glossy Black Cockatoos that feed in Drooping She-Oak Tableland Woodland, Namadgi Argyle Apple Eucalypts at Blue Gum Hill, Australian Anchor Plants in the Lower Molonglo River Nature Reserve, Yellow-bellied Glider & Powerful Owl habitat in Montane forests, ACT Spider Orchids at Mt Majura Nature Reserve, Small Purple Pea at Mt Taylor Nature Reserve, Diamond Firetail & Hooded Robin habitat at Googong Foreshores Reserve, Smoky Mouse habitat in Yellow Kunzea-Namadgi Tea Tree Sub-alpine Dry Shrubland

Large areas of native vegetation

- Large areas of a particular vegetation community are generally more diverse and resilient. This gives them a high conservation value. Examples are Namadgi National Park & the large nature reserves, eg. Tidbinbilla, Black Mountain, Mt Ainslie-Majura & Bullen Range.
- Large areas of a particular vegetation community also have a higher conservation value than small isolated areas of the same vegetation community. For example: Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve versus Black St Yarralumla Grassland.

Water catchments

- Corin, Bendora & Cotter Dams (Cotter River), Googong Dam (Queanbeyan River), Murrumbidgee intake

Note: These are examples only, so Conservation Planning & Research should be consulted about conservation values of specific locations.

Is ACT Parks Making Progress Towards the 2019 Targets?

Monitoring is undertaken using GPS referenced photo points and mapping. The monitoring shows a reduced cover of the higher priority weed species in targeted high conservation value areas. However there are many areas where there are not enough resources to undertake environmental weed control work. In some of these areas environmental weed cover is increasing.

In relation to new environmental weed incursions – ACT Parks is having success in eradicating or at least containing the new weed incursions.

The table below summarises where ACT Parks is moving towards the 2019 targets. There are also examples where there is no progress.

Follow-up Control Work – Essential for Success

Progress towards the 2019 environmental weed control targets will be reversed if follow-up control or maintenance environmental weed control is not undertaken. Follow-up control treats environmental weeds that were missed by the primary control and those that germinate from soil stored seed (seed banks).

Summary of Progress Towards Targets in Decision Matrix 1

Target Category	2019 Target	Environmental Weed Species	Location	Snapshot 2009 Cover-abundance ²	2009-10 Status or Change in cover from 2008-09	Comments
1a	Eradicate	Mexican Feather Grass	Bendora Dam	Rare	Contained	
1d	Eradicate	Spotted Knapweed, Madagascan Fireweed	Cotter Rd, Sulwood Dr	Rare	Eradicated	
1e	Eradicate	Giant Willowherb	Gungahlin Pond	Uncommon	Contained	
1f	Eradicate	Artichoke Thistle	Greenhills	Rare	Contained	
1g	Eradicate	Madagascan Fireweed	Commonwealth Park	Rare	Eradicated	
2a	Reduce to isolated infestations	Serrated Tussock, St John's Wort, African Lovegrass, Chilean Needlegrass	Canberra Nature Park, Namadgi National Park, Googong Foreshores, Tidbinbilla NR	Uncommon	Reduced % cover	Exceptions: At Mt Pleasant Serrated Tussock & Chilean Needlegrass NR % cover has increased. African Lovegrass cover has increased at Tuggeranong Hill, Mt Taylor, Oakey Hill & Urambi Hills NRs.
2b	Reduce to isolated infestations	Serrated Tussock, St John's Wort, African Lovegrass, Chilean Needlegrass	Agistments: Mugga-Mugga, Canberra Ave, Amtech, Molonglo-Coppins, Abattoir Holding Paddocks, Gungahlin 1 & 2 & One Tree Hill	Uncommon to Sub-dominant	Mixed results	Mixed results because % cover has increased at some Agistments. For example African Lovegrass is sub-dominant at the Abattoir Holding Paddocks.
2c	Reduce to isolated infestations	Serrated Tussock, African Lovegrass, Chilean Needlegrass	Urban Open Space	Common to Dominant	Increased % cover	An example is the Watson powerlines corridor near Watson Woodlands and Mt Majura NR.
2d	Reduce to isolated infestations	Serrated Tussock, St John's Wort, African Lovegrass, Chilean Needlegrass	Targeted Rural Roadsides	Uncommon to Sub-dominant	Reduced % cover	An exception is African Lovegrass. Its rapid rate of spread has been favoured by roadside mowing. Lack of resources for urban roadsides has seen % cover increase.
2e	Reduce % cover	African Lovegrass, Chilean Needlegrass	Lower Molonglo River, Urban Waterways	Common to Dominant	Increased % cover	A very large increase in resources would be needed to contain the spread.
2e	Reduce % cover	Alligator Weed	Yerabi Pond, Lake Ginninderra	Uncommon	Reduced % cover	

² Cover-abundance values: Dominant, Co-dominant or Sub-dominant, Common, Uncommon (<5% cover), Rare (Isolated infestations). Values derived from maps and discussions with Rangers. A range of values is due to large variation in cover between sites and species.

Summary of Progress Towards Targets in Decision Matrix 1 Cont.

Target Category	2019 Target	Environmental Weed Species	Location	Snapshot 2009 Cover-abundance²	2009-10 Status or Change in cover from 2008-09	Comments
2f	Reduce % cover	Serrated Tussock, St John's Wort, African Lovegrass, Chilean Needlegrass	Umbagog District Park, Non-reserve Priority 1-2 Urban Grasslands, Mt Rogers, Kowen Forest	Common	Reduced % cover	Kowen Forest will need an increase in control work in harvested areas – as the loss of forest canopy leads to a increased % cover of Serrated Tussock.
2g	Reduce % cover	Chilean Needlegrass, Serrated Tussock, African Lovegrass	Urban parks & open space	Common to Dominant	Increased % cover	
3a	Reduce % cover	Blackberry, Sweet Briar, Broom, Potentilla, Other Woody Weeds	Canberra Nature Park, Namadgi National Park, Tidbinbilla, Swamp Creek, Woodstock, Stony Creek, Bullen Range & Gigerline NRs , Lower Cotter Catchment	Rare to Common	Reduced % cover	Common in CNP – Mt Pleasant & some former grazing properties on reserved land.
3b	Reduce % cover	Sweet Briar, Bathurst Burr, Blackberry, Hawthorn, Crack Willow & Boxthorn	Agistments: Mugga-Mugga, Canberra Ave, Amtech, Molonglo-Coppins, Abattoir Holding Paddocks, Gungahlin 1 & 2 & One Tree Hill	Rare to Common	Reduced % cover	
3c	Reduce % cover	Cotoneaster, Firethorn	Numerous Urban Parks, eg RSL Park Campbell	Uncommon to Common	Increased % cover	
3d	Reduce % cover	Blackberry, Sweet Briar	Targeted Rural Roads	Uncommon to Common	Reduced % cover	
3d	Reduce % cover	Blackberry, Cootamundra Wattle	Urban Arterial Rural Roads	Common to Dominant	Increased % cover	Exception: Cootamundra Wattle spread on some urban arterial roadsides corridors is being contained by the Bushfire Operation Plan works.
3e	Reduce % cover	Back Willow, Black Alder, Crack Willow, Blackberry	Molonglo Gorge Forest Reserve, Lower Molonglo NR, Molonglo Reach, Westbourne Woods, Riparian sections of Swamp Creek, Woodstock, Stony Creek, Bullen Range & Gigerline NRs	Common to Dominant	Reduced % cover	Exceptions include the following sections of the Molonglo River: Oaks estate to Fhyswick, Pialligo, Scrivener Dam to Greenhills & Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR (work will be done in 2010-11),

Summary of Progress Towards Targets in Decision Matrix 1 Cont.

Target Category	2019 Target	Environmental Weed Species	Location	Snapshot 2009 Cover-abundance ²	2009-10 Status or Change in cover from 2008-09	Comments
3f & 3g	Reduce % cover	Blackberry, Broom, Cootamundra Wattle, Cotoneaster, Firethorn, Hawthorn	Urban open space areas, Pierces Creek Forest, Kowen Forest	Common to Dominant	Increased % cover	Blackberry control will need to increase in Pierces Creek & Kowen Forests to keep up with the rapid rate of spread. Exceptions are where the Bushfire Operations Plan has targeted woody weeds in high fire risk areas. At these sites cover has been reduced.
4a	Reduce % cover	Nodding Thistle, Paterson's Curse, Viper's Bugloss, Verbascum	Namadgi NP, Tidbinbilla NR, Canberra Nature Park	Uncommon to Common	Mixed results	These broadleaf weeds have large fluctuations in % cover with seasonal conditions. Common on the former grazing properties in reserved land, and along disturbed areas such as roadsides & fire trails.
4b	Reduce % cover	Paterson's Curse, Thistles	Agistments: Mugga-Mugga, Canberra Ave, Amtech, Molonglo-Coppins, Abattoir Holding Paddocks, Gungahlin 1 & 2 & One Tree Hill	Uncommon to Common	Mixed results	
4c	Reduce % cover	Caltrop, Khaki Weed	Open Space Areas eg. From Tuggeranong Open Space to Point Hut Crossing Car park	Uncommon to Dominant	Increased % cover	Exceptions are where City Parks – La-Trobe Depot staff have contained the spread of Caltrop.
4d	Reduce % cover	Broadleaf weed species	Urban Arterial Roadsides	Common to Dominant	Increased % cover	Highly disturbed sites – which favours spread of broadleaf weeds, eg. Thistles, Paterson's Curse, Capeweed, Caltrop
4d	Reduce % cover	Nodding Thistle, Viper's Bugloss	Boboyan Rd	Uncommon to Common	Reduced % cover	
4e	Reduce % cover	Broadleaf weed species	Riparian areas	Common to Dominant	Mixed results	Thistles & Verbascum increase and decrease with seasonal flows and are not usually targeted for control work in these environments.

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS and
TERRITORY and MUNICIPAL SERVICES'
INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS**

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 77)
10 November 2010**

MR RATTENBURY - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

If we could go to the ACT weed strategy, which has been in place for just over a year now, if I recall correctly, when the Chief Minister released that he indicated in his press release that in the financial year 2009-10 the ACT Government would spend more than \$2 million on weed control, focused on lowland grasslands, the Molonglo River and the lower Cotter catchment. How much of the \$2 million allocated to weed control was spent last year?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. A total of \$1.87 million was spent on environmental weed control in 2009/10 which acquitted 100% of the allocated capital works budget.
Weed control in:
 - Lowland grasslands totalled \$0.220 million;
 - Molonglo River totalled \$0.337 million;
 - Lower Cotter Catchment totalled \$0.476 million; and
 - Other weed control around the ACT including Namadgi National Park, Tidbinbilla, Canberra Nature Park and the Murrumbidgee River Corridor \$0.617 million.
2. An additional 5,249 hours (equating to \$0.2 million) in ranger time was invested from the recurrent budget to control weeds in 2009/10.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
and Territory and Municipal Services**

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Date:.....

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS and
TERRITORY and MUNICIPAL SERVICES'
INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 78)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

1. How much is allocated for pest plant control for 2010-2011?
2. How many identified pest plant initiatives or projects are going unfunded in the 2010-2011 Financial Year?
3. Are any of these high priority initiatives?
4. How much extra funding would be required to do all the work that is required?
5. Will not completing this work affect the successful implementation of the weeds strategy? If so, how?
6. Will the wet season in 2010 lead to any exacerbation of pest plant problems?

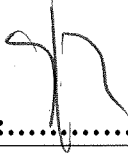
MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. \$1.2 million has been made available for environmental weed control contracts in 2010-2011. This funding is directed firstly to implementing weed control projects prioritised as extreme, very high and high. Full details are in the 2010-11 Environmental Weed Control Operations Plan (eWOP). The eWOP categorises weed infestations into five categories ranging from extreme, very high, high, moderate and low. The plan is produced by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service after consultation with Park Rangers, Field Officers, Weeds Advisory and Working Group members, Park carers and other land managers.
2. 46 projects (out of 144).
3. Yes.
4. \$0.6 million would be required in 2010-11 to undertake all weed control projects identified in the eWOP. In addition, \$0.2 million is required for follow-up work in the first year and \$0.1 million per year for a further four years.

5. The ACT Weeds Strategy 2009-19 calls for a prioritised weed control program. This is delivered each year by the implementation of the Environmental Weed Control Operations Plan.
6. Yes.

**Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works
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Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services


Date:..... 

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

INQUIRY INTO 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORTS

**QUESTION ON NOTICE (PPW and TAMS 79)
10 November 2010**

THE COMMITTEE - Asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

1. Are outbreaks of Paterson's curse and cape weed any worse than usual?
2. How are these weeds removed? What is the likelihood of them returning in future years in the same place?
3. Whose obligation is it to manage weeds such as Patterson's curse on leasehold land?
4. How does the government ensure that leaseholders meet those obligations?

MR STANHOPE - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Yes. Due to the unusually wet season, following several years of drought, larger than usual environmental weed outbreaks have been experienced across the region.
2. Both of these environmental weed species are best controlled by spot or boom spraying with selective herbicide or in the case of small isolated outbreaks, careful chipping using a sharp long knife or small hoe which minimises soil disturbance.

Both these environmental weeds are highly invasive and are widespread across all states of Australia. Both have benefited from the combination of years of drought followed by above average rainfall. They have been able to fill the gaps between desirable plant species and colonise any bare ground which would ideally be filled by native grasses or wildflowers.

Both are prolific seeders, and the seed bank left on the ground remains viable for many years, until conditions (drought, road works, other mechanical disturbance or over grazing) again create patches of disturbed or open ground encouraging a mass germination of these environmental weeds.

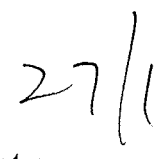
3. Rural landholders are required to manage all environmental weeds on their lease. Paterson's Curse is a listed Pest Plant or Noxious Weed in the ACT. It is listed as a category 3 weed, meaning it must be contained and managed within an affected locality.

4. Rural landholders are required to meet all obligations listed within their Land Management Agreement (LMA). There must be an approved LMA in place before a rural lease is issued. The LMA includes a requirement to manage all environmental weeds. Where landholders fall behind in their responsibilities, Rangers meet with lessees to encourage compliance by:

- providing technical advice; and
- agree to a program of works, including timing for control.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services


Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services


Date:.....



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Mary Porter AM MLA (Chair), Caroline Le Couteur MLA (Deputy Chair), Alistair Coe MLA
2009-2010 Annual Reports Inquiry – supplementary questions



ACT Planning and Land Authority

Q#	Page/s	Topic	Supplementary Questions – ACTPLA	Answer
80	8	Woden infrastructure capacity study	Who undertook the Woden infrastructure capacity study? What are the key findings? Is it publicly available?	The study was undertaken by ACTPLA. Key findings were that service infrastructure (sewer, water, storm water electricity, and gas) are adequate to handle the short, medium and long term development of Woden town centre. The traffic and transport aspect of the study found that the intersection of Melrose Drive and Hindmarsh Drive will require upgrading in the short to medium term. Roads ACT has been advised of this. The report is not publically available. It's purpose was to inform the various service authorities and agencies of upgrading works that may be required in the short, medium and long term to meet development demand. Authorities and agencies have been supplied with a copy of the final report. A presentation on the study was made to the Woden Valley Community Council.

81	124	Town Centre land release	Are the Belconnen and Woden Town Centre reports both available publicly, and if so, where?	The reports are not publically available. Their purpose was to inform the various service authorities and agencies of upgrading works that may be required in the short, medium and long term to meet development demand. Authorities and agencies have been supplied with a copy of the final reports.
82	9	Construction occupation licences	What is the breakdown of the 1795 newly construction occupation licences?	Asbestos assessors – 34 Asbestos removalists – 43 Builder - 397 Owner-builder – 422 Building surveyor – 14 Drainer – 161 Electrician – 379 Gasfitter – 175 Plumber – 170
83	9	Investigations into breaches	What was the nature of the 1370 investigations into breaches – breakdown into types?	Information on investigations of matters related to building is detailed on pages 7-8 of the report <i>Building Quality in the ACT</i> provided to Members of the Assembly in September 2010 and tabled in October 2010. The report and the response to Question on Notice 10-695 from the Select Committee on Estimates in June 2010 outlined that at present complaint statistics are not recorded in such a way that allows easy disaggregation. Many complaints also cover multiple issues. The new complaints management system in development at present will allow ACTPLA to better analyse complaint statistics.
84	13	COLA Act	Has there been any auditing of energy efficiency ratings this year?	Yes. ACTPLA undertook 258 audits related to energy efficiency in the 2009-10 year. 65% of audits were of rating documentation and 35% of associated construction work.

85	15	East Lake	How did the public respond to the public consultation last year? Will it be a joint venture between LDA and CSIRO, or are CSIRO purely providing expertise, but not any financial commitment? What is the funding strategy?	The public responded favourably to the consultation held in 2010, with over 120 people visiting the information display and over 80 attending the community forum presenting ideas for East Lake, held in March. Over 40 written submissions and survey responses were subsequently received. A second information display held in June attracted over 100 people and 23 written responses. Many issues were raised, with some requiring further analysis. Overall the proposals for East Lake were supported, with a call for ongoing consultation as the planning progresses. Consultation reports on the outcomes of both sessions are available on the ACTPLA website. The CSIRO is providing specialist research advice and a peer review role for the East Lake project. There is no financial commitment from the CSIRO. A funding strategy for the development of East Lake has yet to be determined.
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86	16	Strategic planning arrangements	What is being prepared for ACT Government reporting on strategic planning arrangements to the Fed Govt by 2012? - Will the revised Spatial Plan be finalised for this reporting? - Are other plans being prepared for this reporting? - What whole of government coordination is there on this – what other departmental input has there been into the Spatial Plan? - How will it link to the Government's Infrastructure Plan?	The Chief Minister's Department is coordinating the ACT Government response to the COAG requirement for Capital City Strategic Plan by 1 January 2012. Yes there will be a revised planning strategy finalised to meet the time frames. (Currently the ACT's transitional planning strategy comprises the 2004 Canberra Spatial Plan and the Sustainable Transport Plan) There has and continues to be extensive input from other ACT Government agencies. An evaluation of the Spatial Plan, which identified the need to review the planning strategy, captured whole of Government contributions through interagency coordination. The <i>Time to Talk: Canberra 2030</i> public engagement has provided a context for several strategic policy programs being pursued by Government. The review of the planning strategy will use the future scenario identified by the community and will build on the Time to Talk consultation to keep the linkages across government. The revised planning strategy will inform the continual evaluation and refinement of the Government's Infrastructure Plan.
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87	17	Economic stimulus – processes	What changes have been made in response to economic stimulus measures in 2009? – New processes are mentioned – what are they?	The changes included amending the Planning and Development Regulation, Schedule 1 - Exemptions to include: - schools and associated works on school grounds; - single dwellings and additions to single dwellings in established areas; - demolition of single dwellings and associated structures. This reform enabled proponents can proceed straight to the building approval stage. Comprehensive education, and information sessions for schools, industry and ACT Government agencies ensured that school projects achieved delivery timeframes. Other changes included the introduction of new processes to obtain a: - a certificate for DA/BA exempt developments; - a unit title assessment report. DA/BA exemption certificates provide certainty for prospective buyers through enhanced building file information. The new unit title assessment report streamlines the unit title application process for developers.
88	18 & 145	Tune Up Canberra	What progress has been made on the Tune Up Canberra program? - Has there been much take up? - What projects have been undertaken as a result?	Round 4 of 5 of the Tune Up program is currently open and closes 11 March 2011. The program, to date, has attracted 12 applications have been received; of which 9 applicants were successful. Projects which have been funded include: - Improving building management systems such as air conditioning, lighting systems, lifts, CO2 monitoring in basements linked to run time for exhaust fans. Buildings approved for funding expect to save 1.5 million kilowatt hours (kWh) a year in electricity and almost one million mega joules (MJ) in gas a year.

89	19	Inner North Precinct Code	Will the review of the Inner North Precinct Code include taking the Planning Committee's Inquiry Report into the Inner North into account?	Yes
90	19	Commercial codes review	What are the general proposals around the review of the Commercial Codes review?	A public discussion paper is likely to be released shortly – no proposals have been developed to date.
91	19	Housing ACT review	What's the timing of Housing ACT's review of strategic assets, and what are the predicted proposals for rezoning? What variations will be necessary?	The public housing portfolio is managed in accordance with the Public Housing Asset Management Strategy (PHAMS). This includes the redevelopment of Multi Unit Properties (MUPs). A MUP is defined as public housing complexes of 40 or more units. The redevelopment of MUPS has been on-going. Complexes that have been redeveloped or sold include Baringa Gardens (Melba), McPherson Court (O'Connor), Burnie Court (Lyons) and Fraser Court (Kingston). Other than Burnie Court the complexes have not required a variation to the planning policies. Presently, a request has been submitted to the ACTPLA to vary the planning policies for land in Braddon and Reid occupied by public housing (Bega and Allawah Court and Currong Apartments) and the Catholic Church. A decision has yet to be made by the ACTPLA as to whether it is prepared to support a Territory Plan variation. Housing ACT is in the process of reviewing the PHAMS. This may result in a decision to redevelop further MUPS. Any redevelopment will involve a planning study. As part of the planning study, the planning policies which apply to each site will be considered and if necessary, an application to vary the Territory Plan will be submitted to the ACTPLA.

92	19	Building quality forum	What progress has there been on the building quality forum issues?	As discussed at the hearing on 9 February 2011 some changes to auditing have already been made and other changes are in development. The Minister for Planning has undertaken to report to the Assembly on the progress of the building quality reforms in line with the timetable suggested in the <i>Building Quality in the ACT</i> report.
93	19	Strategy on future development	As part of the planning for new urban areas, what are the current plans for Kowen, and what processes are relevant to determining future decisions?	The Spatial Plan 2004 identified the Kowen plateau as the next major area for urban development after Molonglo. Gungahlin and Molonglo Valley have the capacity to meet greenfield housing demand for the next 20-30 years. Consequently, there are no immediate plans for undertaking detailed investigations into Kowen. The Time to Talk Canberra 2030 outcomes report identified that Canberrans understand the consequences of continuing urban expansion and the need for urban infill and intensification. The planning strategy review will provide an opportunity for community to comment on draft future directions.
94	19	Master planning exercises	Are the masterplans being prioritised to: - weave in the new transport plan? - Integrate plans for infill around transport nodes?	A proposed master plans priority list program has a range of places including town and group centres as well as transport corridors to specifically align with and support 'Network 12', as part of the overarching Transport for Canberra.

95	20	2011 BCA	What does the 2011 BCA standard on access to premises involve? What changes are being made to the BCA on energy efficiency?	New provisions in the BCA will call up those parts of the new national <i>Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010</i> that relate to design and construction of buildings as ‘deemed-to-satisfy’ solutions to meet performance requirements for such issues as access, hearing augmentation, and tactile indicators. There are no material changes to energy efficiency requirements in the 2011 BCA that affect the ACT. It should be noted that unlike the ACT, which was the first jurisdiction to introduce the 2010 BCA energy efficiency requirements, the majority of jurisdictions have not yet introduced the 2010 BCA energy efficiency standards for all classes of building.
96	113 & 117	Indicator (f); Vacant leased residential greenfield land	What exactly is vacant leased single residential land? What are the development covenants which cover it? Why do only 10% of vacant blocks need to be audited?	Leased single residential land is land that has a lease limited to the purpose of single residential occupancy. The land cannot be used for multi-unit or multi-residential purposes. The vacancy refers to the lack of any, or any completed, house. The most common development covenant is the requirement to commence and complete construction within a specified timeframe. Some leases have other specific development covenants that are relevant to the leasehold(s). The performance indicator is to investigate 10% of all of the blocks audited. The measure is a minimum, in other words at least 10% must be investigated. The audit itself is not the same as the investigation. The audit is a reconciliation of relevant leaseholds against certificates of occupancy.

97	113	Indicator (i): Greenfield land supply	Why is there no corresponding indicator to cover urban infill? How can we hope to reach 50% urban infill? (Is it even being tracked, and how is it tracked – which dept?)	The performance measure relates to concept plans which are produced only for greenfields areas. Urban infill is addressed in a Spatial Plan indicator of encouraging residential intensification within 7.5km of City Centre over the next 15 years to ensure that up to 50 per cent of urban growth will be located close to existing major employment areas and existing services and facilities. The indicator is tracked by ACTPLA using ABS Building Approvals data. The data indicates that between 2004 and 2010, 40 per cent of Building Approvals were within 7.5kms of Civic.
98	122	Intergovernmental Committee on Planning	Can you provide this Committee with specifics of work being done by the intergovernmental committee? Can information on the proposed war memorials on the lake be provided – have they been discussed by the intergovernmental committee?	The Committee's responsibility is to report to the Federal Minister and it is not for the ACT administration to publicly disclose the content of the discussions to date. It is not the purpose of the Intergovernmental committee to discuss particular projects and any information on the war memorials should be sourced from the NCA.
99	123	Auditing of building certifiers	Around 10% of building approvals are audited – what have been the general findings of this auditing? What percentage of approvals have been compliant?	ACTPLA does not generally disclose the results of routine auditing as not only are there privacy issues involved but release of details of audits can prejudice licence holders and mislead consumers. A building approval covers an extensive array of performance-based standards and associated documentation. The auditing process is intended to educate industry. Minor issues of non-compliance are often corrected as part of this process. Fundamental breaches and refusals to comply are referred to the investigations team. Information on major disciplinary action against licensees is available publically.

100	123	New minimum energy performance standards	For air conditioners and gas hot water heaters (any others?) - Have these changes now been implemented in the ACT? - What are the changes exactly?	National agreement to the parameters of new minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for air conditioners were not agreed until December 2010. A full list of items covered by the MEPS can be found at www.energyrating.gov.au and the decision regulatory impact statement can be found on the Ministerial Council on Energy's website. Restriction of the sale of air conditioners that do not meet the enhanced standards is expected to commence in the ACT in October 2011. This will provide sufficient time for the supply chain to adjust to the new standards. The revised test standard for gas water heater standards was published in December 2010. Amendments to the <i>Gas Safety Act 2000</i> to expand the ACT's MEPS program to gas products is now in progress.
101	124	ACT retail model	What work is being done on the ACT retail model? What are the intended changes, or the problems that need to be fixed? How does this tie in with the MacroPlan work on retail trends? Is the report available?	ACTPLA commissioned the development of a new retail model in 2010 as the company that had previously provided the model, Ibecon, had ceased business. As was the case of the previous model the new model will provide information on retail expenditure by suburb and turnover by centre. Unlike the Ibecon model, it will provide ACTPLA an 'in-house' modelling capacity which will assist in the timely assessment of development proposals, planning strategies and land releases. There are no specific problems or changes that needed to be fixed. The MacroPlan report was commissioned to provide qualitative as well as quantitative analysis of retail trends. In particular it provided advice on the size and spacing of centres in Gungahlin and Molonglo Valley. As such it compliments the retail model by providing assistance as to what strategies to consider for evaluation.

102	125	Licensed club sector	What were the key recommendations of the Licensed Club Sector Policy Research and Review Project?	The project made a small number of recommendations. The most significant of these included the recommendation to continue to plan for club sites in the new greenfield areas of Gungahlin and Molonglo Valley. It also recommended that club-specific sites should be released, and that expression-of-interest processes might be a preferred mechanism for releasing some sites.
103	129 & 184	FOI requests	There were 81 FOI requests in this FY – what were the key issues which people are requesting information on?	The key issues people were requesting information on related to development applications (current, old and exempt development); controlled activity complaints; injury compensation claims and supermarket/local centres.
104	142	Night-time economy	What work did ACTPLA do in researching the night economy? What areas were they researching, and for what purpose? And what were the key findings?	ACTPLA conducted a general literature review of night-time economy (NTE) planning in a number of jurisdictions across Australia and elsewhere. It also mapped the Territory's NTE venues, and examined various case studies of NTE venue development. The project was undertaken to inform the broader review of policies for Commercial zones. The project made a number of general and technical recommendations that will be drawn upon in the drafting of possible new Commercial zones policies.

105	143	Natural heritage nominations	What natural heritage nominations have been made in regard to the Eastern Broadacre Study Area?	There are currently eight indicative or nominated sites within the general region, these are: 1. Majura Valley native grasslands - indicative under Register of National Estate 2. Natural areas around and within Majura, Pialligo and Jerrabomberra - nominated under Commonwealth Heritage List 3. Button Wrinklewort habitat Majura Firing Range – nominated under ACT Heritage Register 4. Grassland Earless Dragon - Majura and Jerrabomberra – nominated under ACT Heritage Register 5. Majura Valley – District of Majura – nominated under ACT Heritage Register 6. Natural Temperate Grassland Ecological Community Majura Valley – nominated under ACT Heritage Register and National Trust Heritage Inventory 7. Savannah Woodland District of Jerrabomberra – nominated under ACT Heritage Register 8. Callum Brae Precinct – Part Block 14 and 15 Section 102 Symonston, Jerrabomberra Part Block 2229, 2231, 2232 – nominated under natural listing on the ACT Heritage Register
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106	143	Eastern Broadacre – defence & AFP	What feedback has there been from Defence and the Australian Federal Police regarding sites within the Eastern Broadacre Study Area? Is this in regard to the Kowen proposal?	Defence provided the written comments which included: • concern regarding the proposed links through Majura Military Training Area (MMTA) to Kowen and potential of noise emanating from firing within MMTA; • does not support development in certain precincts within the study area; • ADFA and RMC playing fields adjoins Area C – Mount Majura Valley South and requested that compatible land uses and appropriate buffers are considered; • clearance zones need to be maintained around Areas F – Harmon and G – Symonston; The AFP did not provide formal comments, however issues raised at the government agency briefing that the proposed uses in the adjoining areas should be compatible and not impact on their future expansion. Consultation is continuing with Defence and AFP.
107	146	Kingston Committee	What is the role of the LDA's Inter Agency Consultative Committee for Kingston? What role does ACTPLA play on this?	• The Inter Agency Consultative Committee provided advice on issues related to the future development of the Kingston Foreshore Cultural Precinct. • ACTPLA provided advice in relation to the Territory Plan and other planning related matters including the special requirements of the National Capital Plan.