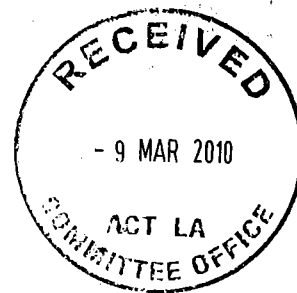


	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
SUBMISSION NUMBER	5
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	11/3/2010



Office of the Commissioner for
Sustainability and the Environment



Ms Caroline Le Couteur, MLA
Chair Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

File No. A10/119

4 March 2010

Dear Ms Le Couteur,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February enclosing a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry into the ACT *Auditor General Act 1996*, and inviting us to provide comment.

At this moment we do not have the time or the resources to provide input into this inquiry, as you may appreciate we are currently in the middle of two major investigations. However, we could see future opportunities to work with the Auditor General in a collaborative manner. For example be in an investigation where a combination of public administration and environmental expertise would enhance as a result of cross sectoral understanding, investigation findings and recommendations.

Another way may be in assisting the Auditor General in relation to the Performance Audits conducted under Section 12 subsection (3), which reads as follows:

"In the conduct of a performance audit, the auditor general may where appropriate take into account environmental issues relative to the operations being reviewed or examined, having regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development".

Ability to conduct such joint investigations or audits may however require legislative amendments and advice would need to be sought on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Dr Maxine Cooper
Commissioner

PO Box 356 Dickson ACT 2602

ABN: 14 526 086 507

T: (02) 6207 2626 F: (02) 6207 2630 E: envcomm@act.gov.au W: www.envcomm.act.gov.au

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