



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 67, Municipal Services

In relation to: Asset management

On p.67 it says that “sustainable asset management strategies” will be developed for major infrastructure assets.

1. What are the key criteria for defining “major assets”?
2. Will the strategies have intended benchmarks for longevity of the infrastructure? Eg. 50 years?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:—

1. ACT Treasury defines an asset as a future economic benefit as a result of a past transaction, that is controlled, and can be measured reliably. The asset management strategies referred to relate to all non-financial assets owned or controlled by Government. There are no specific criteria for differentiating between major and other assets.
2. The ultimate longevity of each asset will be a factor of quality of service, level of usage, replacement cost and standard of maintenance. All of these factors may alter over the life of the asset therefore changing the useful life of the asset.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date:

8-6-11

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

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## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 70, Waste and recycling

In relation to: Garbage trucks

What processes does NoWaste use to ensure that contractors, such as those that undertake garbage collection services, use registered and roadworthy vehicles?

SIMON CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The contract for the provision of domestic waste and recyclable materials collection services requires the contractor, Cleanaway, to keep collection vehicles in a safe and good working condition at all times during the term of the contract at Cleanaway's expense, including making any repairs required by appropriate statutory authorities. The contract also requires Cleanaway to comply with Commonwealth and Territory laws and officers exercising statutory powers, which would include requirements to register vehicles.

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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 70, Waste and recycling

In relation to: Implementation of *Litter (Shopping Trolleys) Amendment Act*

1. In terms of the implementation of the *Litter (Shopping Trolleys) Amendment Act* which was passed in the Assembly last year - why are these new laws not being enforced yet?
2. Have the new requirements been communicated to all relevant supermarkets yet?

SIMON CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The *Litter (Shopping Trolleys) Amendment Act 2011* (the Act) commenced on 2 March 2011. TAMS has adopted an educational, rather than an enforcement, approach to the operation of the Act and this will continue until the end of June 2011. In addition to advice relating to appropriate signage in retail outlets and a number of community announcements about the implementation of the Act, City Rangers have been advising retailers and members of the community about breaches of the ACT when they have been detected. Serious or repeated breaches of the Act will be subject to formal compliance measures, as provided by the Act, from 1 July 2011.
2. Yes.

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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services

In relation to: drinking fountains

1. How much funding is there in this year's budget for drinking fountains?
2. What type are they?
3. Where will they be installed? (are they all going into Civic, or other town centres, or parks, or other sites?)
4. Will there be signs installed adjacent to drinking fountains to make them obvious?

SIMON CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--

1. There is no specific funding provided in the 2011-12 Budget for drinking fountains. However, drinking fountains are being installed or replaced as part of the Civic and Shopping Centre 2011-12 Upgrade Projects. Drinking fountains may also be installed or replaced as part of the 2011-12 Street Furniture and Barbeque Upgrade Capital Work Projects.
2. Several styles of drinking fountains are used, including Arqa Stations and Channel Fountains.
3. New fountains are proposed for Odgers Lane and Alinga Street. Drinking fountains will also be installed at Scullin Shops, Black Mountain Peninsula and Belconnen Skate Park.
4. No. Drinking fountains are located in pedestrian thoroughfares and locations that allow good visibility.

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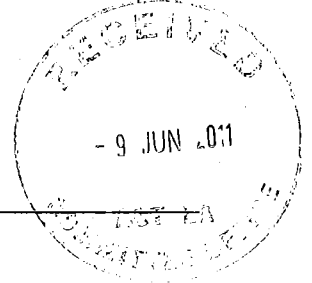
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## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 3, page number 157, Waste and recycling

In relation to: light bulb and battery collection points

1. There is no funding for light bulb and battery collection points in this budget – why is this?
2. What is your approach to solving this problem?

SIMON CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Although no funding was provided for light bulb and battery collection points, the ACT Government funded a range of significant resource recovery initiatives in the 2011-12 Budget, including street level recycling in the city, workshop spaces at Mugga Lane for the recycling of materials that are proving difficult to divert from landfill, and the rehabilitation of the building waste recovery site at West Belconnen.

For your information;

- Battery World in Phillip (telephone number 13 17 60) will accept small numbers of rechargeable batteries (such as for mobile phones, domestic appliances and laptops) from domestic sources at no charge;
- mobile phone batteries can be dropped off at Mobile Muster collection points in Recycling Drop-off Centres and Resource Management Centres, as well as at mobile phone retail outlets and ANZ branches;

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- companies can establish their own rechargeable battery recycling program. Battery World in Phillip, Cleanaway Canberra, SITA Environmental Solutions and MRI offer recycling services. Charges may apply; and
  - Battery World in Phillip will accept alkaline (single use) batteries from a domestic source for recycling at no charge.
2. The ACT Government has been progressively implementing further services for the free drop-off of batteries and fluorescent light bulbs:
- car batteries can be dropped-off at the Mitchell and Mugga Lane Resource Management Centres and at the Parkwood Recycling Estate;
  - fluorescent light bulbs can be dropped-off at the Mitchell and Mugga Lane Resource Management Centres;
  - mobile phones and mobile phone batteries can be dropped off at the Mitchell and Mugga Lane Resource Management Centres, and at the Regional Recycling Centres at Tuggeranong, Phillip and Belconnen.

A further submission for light bulb and battery collection points will be made via the 2012-13 Budget.

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Date:

7-6-11

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services

In relation to: street level recycling in Civic

1. The funding for a street level recycling program in Civic has been put forward as a trial for one year – why was this?
2. What criteria will be used to evaluate whether the trial was a success?
3. Given that this is only a one year project, why are there continuing depreciation costs associated with the project in the forward years?
4. If the trial is considered a success, will it be rolled out to other town centres across Canberra?
5. Does this mean that the Tender for the Mitchell commercial waste Recycling Facility has been finalised, in order to process the waste from this trial?
6. If so, who was the contract awarded to, and what other waste will they be processing?

SIMON CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The funding identified in the 2011-12 Budget is for the initial capital costs for the installation of recycling bins and bin shrouds.
2. The criteria used to evaluate the success include level of use, recyclable content and weight of materials. In addition, the contractor emptying these bins will monitor the amount and quality of recyclable material. This information will be used to determine the amount of material recycled compared to the amount transferred to landfill.
3. The funding was provided for capital assets. There is an ongoing depreciation cost relative to the assets' life and capital cost.
4. Consideration to expanding the program to other centres would be made after the trial.

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5. There have recently been three tenders let for services at the Mitchell Transfer Station, none of which relate to a commercial waste Recycling Facility. Waste from the trial will be processed at the Hume Resource Recovery Estate.
6. Not Applicable.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms LE COUTEUR asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

In relation to: New waste strategies

I see that there are no major new waste initiatives in this budget, I gather due to the development of the waste policy.

1. Are you able to tell us what process the department is currently undertaking in terms of developing an assessment process for new waste technologies?  
Are you able to give us any details on progress with regard to a Dirty MRF, or a new commercial clean MRF? (Materials Recycling Facility)

MINISTER CORBELL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) are currently in the process of finalising the draft waste strategy. As part of this process ESDD will be procuring a consultancy on the potential provision of new waste services technologies in the ACT. The scope of works will incorporate technical and financial risk; Net Present Value; budgetary impact for the Territory Government; and greenhouse gas emissions as well as market research to determine the ability of industry to provide these services.
2. A residual-waste Material Recovery Facility is one of the technologies that is being evaluated as part of the ESDD consultancy. The Government issued a Requests for Proposal (RFP) from industry in December 2010 to build and operate a dry commercial waste Material Recovery Facility in the Hume Resource Recovery Estate. Negotiations are presently under way with the preferred respondent.

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Date: 7.6.11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell.



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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 3, page number 157, Waste and recycling

In relation to: ACT new landfill and other studies

1. How will new landfill management practices vary from current landfill management practices?
2. How long will it take before our full landfill sites are able to be reused for other purposes, including for waste management purposes?
3. What are the other related studies which are connected to this funding?

SIMON CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. Proposed improved practices include:
  - the use of a heavier compactor to put more waste in each unit of landfill space, which will mean that landfill cells will last longer and will accommodate more waste;
  - the re-injection of leachate back into the waste to generate methane will ensure that waste settles more quickly. This will improve upon the current practice of using leachate for on-site irrigation and capture. The design of these new leachate management practices has been developed in consultation with the Environment Protection Authority and they will be managed in accordance with the Environmental Authorisation;
  - when the new contract for the management of the landfill is issued in 2015-16, it will contain new requirements aimed at making the best use of available air space and recovering resources. The new requirements will be based on industry best-practice, but it is too early to say exactly what those requirements will be;
  - better and more efficient sorting and recycling initiatives to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

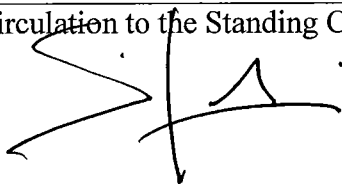
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2. How long depends on the specific purpose for which the site will be used. Once landfill cells are fully rehabilitated and are no longer producing significant quantities of leachate or methane (could take 20 to 30 years), the site can be considered for low intensity uses, including waste remediation, resource recovery, renewable energy generation, open space and other purposes. Rehabilitated landfill cells have limited level areas which restricts their uses.
3. Other related studies will take account of the following issues:
  - heritage;
  - ecological;
  - environmental impact;
  - land valuation;
  - sub-division;
  - Territory Plan variations;
  - geotech hydrological;
  - surveys;
  - concept and design; and
  - detailed design.

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#### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 3, page number 157, Waste and recycling

In relation to: Mugga Lane - rehabilitation of Landfill cells

Once the old landfill cells at Mugga Lane are rehabilitated, what is the intended use for the cell sites?

SIMON CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

For the next twenty to thirty years, the main function for the old landfill cells in the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre will be remediation and renewable energy generation. Methane will be captured during this time and converted into power. The Government is also considering other suitable low-impact uses, such as solar power generation.

Once landfill cells are fully rehabilitated, and are no longer producing significant quantities of leachate or methane, the site can be considered for low intensity uses including waste remediation, resource recovery, renewable energy generation, open space and other purposes. Rehabilitated landfill cells have limited level areas which restricts their uses.

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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

CAROLINE LE COUTEUR: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 3, page number 157, Waste and recycling

In relation to: Hume Resource Recovery – workshop spaces construction

\$1.77M has been put forward in this year's budget for an industrial workshop at the Hume Resource Recovery Estate.

1. Does that mean that the Expression of Interest process to put various resource recovery businesses into Hume has now been finalised?
2. If so, who was selected? – What types of businesses, and what will they process?
3. Is this information available publicly anywhere?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The \$1.77M for the construction of an industrial workshop at the Hume Resource Recovery Estate will see the construction of workshop spaces that will be partitioned, as required, to house multiple operations. Expressions of Interest will be sought when the construction is nearing completion, from operations that will either target problematic waste streams or that will create synergies with existing recycling operations .

The Territory and Municipal Services Directorate conducted detailed market research in late 2009 and early 2010 to identify suitable large-scale recycling facilities for the Hume Resource Recovery Estate. Based on the results of that market research, the ACT Government called for Requests for Proposal (RFP) from industry in December 2010 to build and operate a dry commercial waste Materials Recovery Facility in the Hume Resource Recovery Estate. Negotiations are presently under way with the preferred RFP respondent.

2. Not applicable as the RFP process has not been concluded.

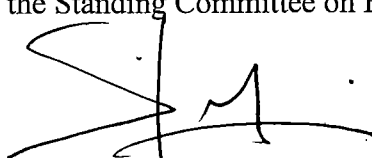
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3. Documents relating to the Market Research and RFP processes were available on the Department's website at the time.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services

In relation to: Graffiti

1. What is the policy which determines when graffiti needs to be removed?
2. Is it complaint based?
3. If people like it, but it isn't govt coordinated/sanctioned, can it stay? (eg. Arty but generally inoffensive faces in underpasses)?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. Graffiti is removed from ACT Government assets within 24 hours of observation or notification if it is offensive, or within three working days of observation or notification if it is not offensive.
2. Removal of graffiti is managed both reactively in response to reports and pro-actively following inspection of Territory assets for the presence of graffiti.
3. Yes, but only at designated graffiti practice sites. Graffiti located at the 40 designated 'legal' graffiti practice sites is retained, unless it is offensive.

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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 3, page number 152, Office of Transport

In relation to: City Path lighting

There is funding to increase the level of lighting in the City - \$100K pa.

1. Are there also plans to increase the lighting in other town centres?
2. Are there also plans to increase the level of lighting on community paths – particularly around higher density areas, eg. Paths leading to group centres?
3. What sort of timeframe do these improvements have?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. No, not as part of this project.
2. Yes, but funded through other projects which form part of the walking and cycling infrastructure program.
3. Over the next 12 months.

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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 66, Office of Transport

In relation to: Drakeford Drive pedestrian bridge

I note that there is a new pedestrian bridge to be constructed over Drakeford Drive to the new High school in Kambah. Given that there are numerous underpasses under Drakeford Drive already, does this mean that there is a move towards pedestrian bridges away from underpasses?

(If so, why?)

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

No. The location close to the Namadgi High School did not suit the construction of an underpass. Options assessed as part of the feasibility study considered both an underpass and an overpass with the overpass option, in this location, recommended as the most appropriate solution.

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Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

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## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 66, Land Management

In relation to: Public Liability Insurance

Members of the community who wish to use a public place must complete and lodge an application form with TAMS. This is required for all events and activities conducted on unleased Territory Land, regardless of their size or complexity.

*Question:* The cost of public liability insurance for community organisations can be costly and in some cases unaffordable.

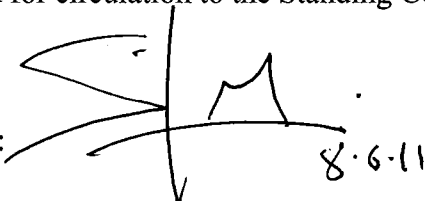
1. What concessions are available for community organisations?
2. What consideration has TAMS given to reviewing the current arrangements for public liability insurance to make it more affordable for community organisations or in some cases removing the need to have such insurances?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:-

1. TAMS is not able to apply concessions for public liability insurance to any organisation or individual, as the level of insurance is set by ACT Insurance Authority and the premiums themselves are set by the individual insurance company with whom the community group insures. TAMS does, however, apply concessions for site rental to community organisations and charity events.
2. None.

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**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**  
**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 66, Land Management

In relation to: community gardens

Funding for community gardens do not appear in this budget, but I understand that there is funding to coordinate the community gardens work included somewhere:

1. Could you please tell us where these funds are in this budget (I presume Land Management)?
2. How much is this funding?
3. What is the funding for exactly? (staffing costs, coordination of policy, for community groups to manage, etc)

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. No specific funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for the purpose of coordinating community gardens work.
2. Not applicable.
3. Funding to establish a community gardens' coordinator is being considered within the scope of a report being produced by an Interagency Working Group chaired by ESD that will be presented to the Assembly in June 2011.

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### SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 66, Land Management

In relation to: community gardens

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1. Could you please tell us where these funds are in this budget (I presume Land Management)?
2. How much is this funding?
3. What is the funding for exactly? (staffing costs, coordination of policy, for community groups to manage, etc)

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. No specific funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for the purpose of coordinating community gardens work. Parks and City Services, within the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, however, has allocated funds for community gardens from its internal budget.
2. \$40,000.
3. Funding to establish a community gardens' coordinator is being considered within the scope of a report being produced by an Interagency Working Group chaired by ESD that will be presented to the Assembly in June 2011.

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28.6.11

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 66, Land Management

In relation to: general ACT cat containment policy

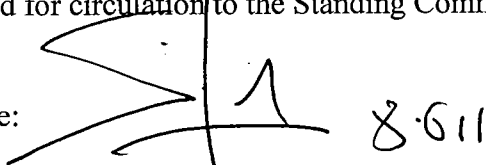
1. When will a draft/ final policy be finalised?
2. I understand that there is a survey underway right now, will this data be released publicly?
3. How will the data be used?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. A draft cat containment policy is expected to be finalised following the completion of a community survey.
2. The survey is currently underway and a report is expected to be completed by the end of July 2011. The findings of the survey will be publicly released.
3. The data from the survey will be used to provide information on the effectiveness of existing policy and to inform future policy development.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



Date:

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 66, Land Management

In relation to: Molonglo domestic animal planning

#### Cat containment

1. Will the new suburbs in Molonglo be cat containment areas?
2. If so, this is a concern, as the blocks in Wright have been sold without this information being made public.
3. If not, this is a concern, given how close to open woodland areas the area is.

#### Dog off leash areas

4. Are there areas being set aside in the plans for dog off leash zones or parks?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The suburbs of Wright and Coombs are currently being considered for declaration as cat containment areas. Future suburbs in the Molonglo sub-division will be considered for declaration as cat containment areas as they occur in the planning process.
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. The planning for Molonglo is still occurring and it is premature to designate areas or parks for dog off-leash recreation.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

Date:

8.6.11

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE



Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 66, Land Management

In relation to: Molonglo Riverside Park

1. What is the plan for the river corridor? The River Park proposal is being put together now – what is the timing of that, and what consultation will there be?
2. Is this to be a recreational purpose park, or an ecological reserve park? (and if both, how will that work?)
3. What recreational and community spaces are being provided within the urban footprint, to reduce pressure on the river corridor?
4. How will the connectivity of *Aprasia* (Pink-tailed Worm Lizard) habitat along river corridor be ensured? (given that vehicles and fire are the 2 most threatening activities)
5. What is the proposal for the Outer Asset Protection Zone (OAPZ), and how will it impact on the *Aprasia* habitat?
6. Given the way OAPZs need to be managed, can we be sure that there will be *Aprasia* habitat set aside which is not part of the River Park and not managed for fire?
7. What zoning will the *Aprasia* habitat be given?
8. How differently do the three zones (river park, fire APZ, *Aprasia* habitat) need to be managed?
9. Which agency is responsible for the development of the community and cycle paths around the park?

**SIMON CORBELL:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Preparation of the River Park Concept Plan commenced in February 2011 and will provide an overarching blueprint for the future development of an important area adjacent to the future urban areas of Molonglo. The Final Report for Cabinet Submission is due August/September, 2011.

Community briefings and consultation, since the project inception (Feb/Mar 2011), has been provided to environmental and recreation groups; to the Molonglo Community and Industry Reference Group – CIRG (March, May 2011); and to a Conservation Council Forum (May 2011). Additionally, the project was included in the Molonglo Community Forums held in March and May. A detailed presentation of the draft concept plan is

scheduled for June 2011 with stakeholder responses invited. Further detailed consultation will be required in the future as part of the statutory process to prepare a Plan of Management.

2. The area of the River Park comprises approximately 500 hectares of land, with extensive areas suitable for both ecological conservation and recreation. The latter includes areas of low environmental value, predominantly degraded pine plantation and grazing land, that are suitable for higher impact recreation uses. Some areas are severely weed infested and require significant bush remediation.
3. Within the urban footprint (i.e the area zoned *Future Urban Area* in the Territory Plan), recreation spaces are provided in the form of open space corridors, playing fields, school ovals, local parks and playgrounds, and irrigated recreation parks suitable for picnics, barbeques and informal sports. Wetland parks are also planned as part of an extensive system of stormwater ponds within the urban area, which will protect the Molonglo River from untreated urban stormwater runoff.
4. Areas of habitat for Pink-tailed Worm Lizard (*Aprasia pulchella*), an EPBC listed protected species, have been closely surveyed and extensive conservation areas are being defined in the River Park plan to ensure their protection. In addition, large areas of degraded land currently not occupied, are being set aside for restoration and extension of *Aprasia* habitat, including native grassland and Box Gum Woodland, to provide connectivity and reinforce ecological viability.
5. Because of the rocky nature of Pink-tailed Worm Lizard habitat, grass cover – i.e. fuel – is generally low. The detailed management regime is still being defined by ecological and fire management experts, however, at this stage in the concept planning, it is understood that appropriate fuel reduction can be achieved by ecologically prescribed control burning (i.e. to match the natural fire ecology of the native grasslands which *Aprasia* inhabits, along with associated species such as the ants they feed on).

When, or if, ecologically prescribed burns – eg, cool burns – do not meet requisite fuel levels, other methods such as hand slashing may be introduced. In addition to the outer asset protection zones, there will be inner asset protection zones - typically 30 – 50m wide, consisting of an urban edge street and mown verges, which are easily accessed for fire fighting and control of ember attack. None of the inner asset protection zones will be located in high or moderate quality *Aprasia* habitat.

6. OAPZs, are typically 100m wide. The river park varies in width from about 300 metres to 1200 metres. Large areas of of *Aprasia* habitat will remain outside of the OAPZs.
7. The majority of land in river corridor is identified as public land (under the overlay provisions of part C of the Territory Plan and Division 5.7 of the Land Act). This mechanism provides for plans of management to be prepared by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna in consultation with the public. In the Molonglo River Corridor, public land is designated as either a Nature Reserve (marked "Pc" on the map) or Special Purpose Reserve ("Pd").

The RPCP, which is pursuing a whole-of-corridor approach to the river at Molonglo, will provide a framework for preparation of the statutory Plan of Management (PoM) to be approved by the Conservator for Flora and Fauna.

Part of the brief for the RPCP is to review the classification and current management objectives of the reserve to reflect environmental conservation as a primary management objective. Consideration will be given to rezoning the River Corridor as a 'Nature

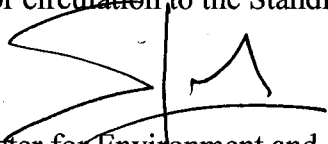


Reserve' to more adequately reflect imperatives to conserve and restore the natural environment, while allowing opportunities for public use of the area for recreation, education and research.

8. These 'three zones (river park, fire APZ, *Aprasia* habitat)' do not exist as such. Within the River Park fire APZ's and habitat will overlap in places. As described above, fire protection zones will be managed so as not to impact on *Aprasia*. Recreation areas will be located away from significant habitat zones and appropriately buffered. The Plan of Management will further refine 'management zones' and management practices for each zone.
9. Community pedestrian and cycle paths are planned at the broadscale by ACTPLA and TAMS ensuring overall network connectivity, while allowing in some cases for detailed resolution by developers in estate development plans. Some paths are built under the capital works program.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



Date: 15.6.11

By the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 71, Land Management

In relation to: Tree Register

1. Is the Tree Register publicly available?
  - (a) What format is it in?
  - (b) Is it publicly visible on a website?
2. Is there a separate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tree Register?
  - (a) How many trees are on this Register?
  - (b) What format is this Register?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Yes.
  - (a) The ACT Tree Register is electronically available on the Territory and Municipal Services website –  
[www.tams.act.gov.au/live/environment/treeprotection/acttreeregister](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/environment/treeprotection/acttreeregister)
  - (b) See 1 (a).
2. No.
  - (a) Not applicable.
  - (b) Not applicable.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

6.6.11 Date:

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

#### PLEASE NOTE

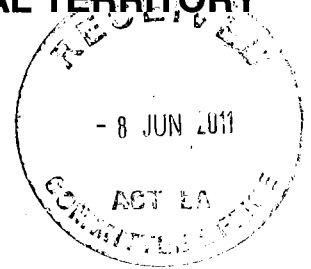
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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MS LE COUTEUR : To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

Ref: Budget paper 3, page number 102, Environmental Regulation.

In relation to : Review of noise standards.

- 1) Will the review of noise standards include:
  - a) examining the noise attenuation rules in existing planning and building codes (relevant to recommendations 15 – 17 in the final report of the Planning Committee's Live Music Inquiry)?
  - b) whether the review will consider the broader value of Canberra's music culture / night economy when making its evaluations?
- 2) What other issues will the review examine?
- 3) Could you please outline what the review will entail, how it will be conducted, and what the timelines are?

MINISTER CORBELL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) a) This is yet to be determined, however ACTPLA are represented on the Australian Building Codes Board and the national forum of Planning Officials Group who are working on a national uniform approach to regulating for external noise attenuation in buildings.
 

b) Yes, the objects of the *Environment Protection Act 1997* is to ensure a balanced outcome by considering economic, social and environmental factors in all decisions, consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- 2) The brief and terms of reference are yet to be prepared. In the preparation of these documents, the recommendations from the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services – Inquiry into Live Music will be considered.
- 3) As above.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

8-6-11

Date:

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell.



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 71, Environmental Regulation

In relation to: EPA – garbage trucks

We have concerns about environmental pollution and safety issues, as we have heard that there are some Cleanaway garbage trucks which are leaking substantial amounts of oil. This has been an ongoing issue for over 5 months, which is a concern given that trucks need to be re-registered every 3 months by ACT motor traffic law.

1. What processes does the EPA use to ensure that motor vehicles used by the ACT Government are roadworthy?
2. Are they regularly inspected?
3. What processes does EPA use to follow up complaints such as these?

Simon Corbell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The EPA does not undertake vehicle inspections.
2. The *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2000* provides for a vehicle to be registered for a period of 3, 6 or 12 months. The registered operator is able to select the registration period. Heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes tare weight are required to have a roadworthy inspection every two years.
3. The EPA investigates all reports of pollution spills including those from vehicles. In regard to this matter, Road User Services is the appropriate agency to investigate un-roadworthy vehicles.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date:

20.6.11

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

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**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**  
**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

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**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

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Caroline Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, Budget paper 4, page number 72, Library Services


In relation to: Accountability Indicators for Library Services

Accountability Indicators for Library Services suggests that the direct cost of public library services per capita (indicator i) in 2010-11 was budgeted to be \$35.35, estimated to be \$35.35 for 2010-11 and targeted to be \$35.35 for 2011-12. Given that there have been population movements throughout this financial year and this will occur next year why is the direct cost per capita for library services the same? How does this figure relate to indicator h- the average direct cost of library services per visit per branch, which HAS increased by almost \$2 over the target?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:-

Upon review, the Estimated Outcome for 2010-11 for Indicator (i), direct cost of public library services per capita, should read \$37.00, which reflects the increase in costs associated with capital purchases, as per note provided in Indicator (h).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:  Date: 8.6.11

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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Amanda Bresnan : To ask the Minister for TAMS

Ref: The Office of Transport - ACTION (BP4 p109, 112)

In relation to New ACTION Services, and Transport indicators

1. Why is the figure of 83% timeliness of services and the new goal of 85% so low, and why is it so much lower than other jurisdictions such as NSW and Victoria?
2. What are the factors that are causing this low reliability figure and how are they being addressed?
3. How does the Government measure modal shift targets? Is this data reliable and how is the Government ensuring it is reliable?
4. Does the Government have data on how many people that have shifted to using public transport have shifted away from car use, from bikes, or from walking?
5. Please provide the patronage figures for the last 5 years. In the Government's opinion, what is holding back patronage and stopping it from steadily increasing?
6. Regarding the new \$2.5m per year for improved ACTION Network services: please provide detail of what will be the new services to Gungahlin, the Hospital etc. When is it intended that these services will begin?
7. Regarding the extension of the blue rapid to Kippax: how will the trial work and what are the factors that will determine whether this will become a permanent service?
8. Regarding the item called 'ACTION operations' at the bottom of p86, BP3: what does this involve? How will changes to the staffing arrangements in ACTION address the IR issues that have been affecting services?

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SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The new target of 85% timeliness has been set with reference to targets set by other jurisdictions that utilise Global Positioning System (GPS) technology in their Smartcard ticketing systems to measure timeliness. In comparison, Sydney metro measures of timeliness (where targets are set at 95% of trips departing within five minutes of the scheduled departure time) are calculated using self reported early and late trips and self reported service kilometres by contracted bus operators.
2. In the early months of 2011, service reliability was affected by a lack of bus availability and a lack of driver availability. ACTION is currently running a rolling recruitment program in order to re-establish sufficient driving staff.
3. The Government's journey to work mode shift targets are measured through the five-yearly Australian Bureau of Statistics Census. This is the most reliable source of data for mode shift as it surveys every Australian household.
4. The ACT does not hold any data showing the impact of public transport mode shift on other modes. However, the Territory's "EMME3" transport planning/modelling software assumes that the majority of modal shift to public transport would be from car use because the majority of travel is still undertaken by private car, and public transport aims at peak times to compete with travel times of passengers cars.
5. See Budget Paper 4 page 111 for ACTION patronage figures. Anecdotal evidence suggests that patronage continues to increase. The implementation of the new ticketing system will allow a full year of accurate patronage collection in 2011-12.
6. The following network improvements are planned to take effect in 2012:
  - Gungahlin**  
Possible weekday service modifications include Route 51 to Casey, Route 59 to Bonner and Forde, and Route 56 to Crace.
  - Central Canberra**  
Proposed changes to Central Canberra routes will aim to improve service to City West, including extending 15-minute frequency service into the southern part of the ANU campus.
  - Fyshwick route redesign**  
The Red Rapid Route is proposed to be extended to travel through Fishwick. This is similar in design to the suburban extensions of the Blue Rapid (300 Series) bus routes. Existing routes will be reviewed as part of this proposed redesign.
  - Blue Rapid Extension to Kippax**  
Blue Rapid Route 300 currently travels between Tuggeranong and Belconnen via Woden and the City. It is proposed that this route be extended to Kippax with an increase in frequency to 15 minutes in line with the long term Rapid corridor along Southern Cross Drive. The Kippax park and ride will also be expanded prior to the network change.
  - Canberra Hospital**  
A combination of re-timing and extension of existing routes will provide 15 minute frequency between the Hospital and Woden Bus Station.
7. The Blue Rapid trial to Kippax is the first phase in establishing a proposed Blue Rapid Corridor through to West Belconnen in accordance with the Strategic Public Transport Network Plan.  
The methods of evaluation will include on bus surveys, web/written correspondence, driver/staff feedback, patronage data/cost etc.

8. ACTION operations funding consists of additional funding to assist ACTION to meet the increased costs of delivering public transport services to the community and includes additional funding to cover increased workers' and general insurance premiums, the cost of increases to contracts such as the rural schools contract. Agreement with the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) over a new employment agreement will facilitate more efficient and effective deployment of workshop staff in the future, particularly on weekends. This is expected to have a positive impact on service reliability.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



19.6.11

Date:

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA





# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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Amanda Bresnan : To ask the Minister for TAMS

Ref: The Office of Transport - ACTION (BP4 p109, 112)

In relation to bikes, buses, and MyWay

1. What percentage of ACT buses have bike racks?
2. What is the timeline for achieving 100% of buses with bike racks?
3. What is the reliability level of bike racks on buses that are scheduled to have a bike rack?  
How is this measured?
4. Will the Government measure the reliability of bike racks on scheduled buses, and record this as a budget indicator?
5. Please provide statistics of how many passengers are utilising the bike racks on buses? If you don't keep these statistics: why not, and will you start collecting this data?
6. Please provide an update on the provision of bike parking infrastructure at ACT bus stops and interchanges:
  - a) What new bike parking infrastructure has been provided in the last year?
  - b) What plans are there to provide more?
  - c) How many ACT bus stops have been fitted with bike parking 'hoops' (as opposed to a complete bike cage) and are there plans to fit more of these bike hoops?
7. Regarding MyWay ticketing: how will you be using the MyWay data you collect from passengers scanning on and off, and how long until you will have enough data that you consider usable?

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8. Please provide a breakdown of the current ACTION bus fleet, including:
  - a) Number and age of buses
  - b) The number of buses using the various types of fuel (eg how many buses use low-emissions diesel, and how many use other types of fuel).
  - c) Number of articulated buses
9. What is ACTION's policy governing the ages of its buses; ie at what age are buses taken off the road or marked for replacement?
10. What is ACTION's plan for purchasing new buses over upcoming years?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. As of 31 May 2011, 56.64 per cent of the in-service network fleet has bike racks.
2. It is not possible to retrofit *all* of the existing fleet with bike racks, so ACTION cannot achieve a 100% outcome.
3. Where operationally possible the Blue Rapid and Red Rapid services are fitted with bike racks. ACTION does not measure the reliability of bike racks being available on bike rack scheduled bus routes.
4. At this time, the Government does not intend to measure the reliability of bike racks being available on bike rack scheduled bus routes. However, the Government may consider including an indicator to measure the percentage of the in-service fleet equipped with bike racks.
5. Statistics are not available because passengers using bike racks cannot be separately identified through the ticketing system.
6.
  - a) Two facilities have been provided at Belconnen and Flemington Road.
  - b) Five further facilities should be operational by the end of the 2011-12 financial year.
  - c) 28 bus stops have bike parking hoops and there are plans to fit more.
7. The data collected will be used to inform future network planning, to monitor public transport performance, and to develop public transport policy and promotion strategies. Useable data should be available by the end of 2011.
8. As of 31 May 2011 ACTION's fleet is configured as follows:

Number	Bus Type	Av Age (in years)
25	Dart Midi Buses	13.80
230	Std Orange Buses	20.00
160	Std Green Fleet	3.92
33	Articulated Buses	21.98
16	Steer Tag Buses	1.17
15	Standard Buses (retired for sale)	20.67

ACTION's diesel fleet (409 buses) operate on Ultra Low Sulphur diesel. 156 (38.1%) of these buses are manufactured to the Euro 3 or better emissions standard.

ACTION's Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fleet (70 buses) operate on regular CNG supplied from the ActewAGL gas grid.

ACTION has 33 Renault PR180 articulated buses.

9. ACTION's Fleet Replacement Strategy considers, among other things:
- the optimum age of the fleet in terms of the economic life of a bus;
  - the number and timing of bus replacements required to meet DDA requirements; and
  - the type of fuel to be used taking into account environmental and economic considerations.

While there is not a regulated maximum age for buses in the ACT, conventional practice in the industry is to set a maximum age of 25 years. 100 buses have been replaced under this Strategy since 2008-09.

10. ACTION plans to procure 35 buses in 2011-12.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



Date:

6.6.11

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Amanda Bresnan : To ask the Minister for TAMS  
Ref: Budget Paper 3, p73

In relation to : Social tendering, and waste contracts

1. Please provide information and a chronology of the tendering process for tv and computer recycling in the territory, including:
  - the initial tender dates for computer and tv recycling;
  - Who received the contracts and when these decisions were made;
  - when TES-AMM indicated it would not fulfil the initial contract;
  - the date the new tender was advertised
  - who received the new contracts and when these decisions were made
2. What weight is given to whether a company is local or not in deciding whether to provide recycling contracts?
3. Does NoWaste or Shared Services Procurement have a policy of favouring/developing a local green economy? Please provide this policy.
4. Do any of the contractors involved in e-waste recycling for the ACT (including TES-AMM and MRI) send any of the materials out of Australia?
5. Has the Government done calculations on the impact that the distance travelled by e-waste for recycling has on the overall environmental benefits of recycling the products? For example, if the e-waste travels to Asia for recycling, do the travel emissions offset the benefits of recycling the product? Please provide these calculations.
6. What relevance is given to distance travelled in deciding who will receive an ACT Government recycling contract?
7. Please detail the checks that NoWaste has done on both TES-AMM and MRI to investigate the recycling processes they use, and the final destinations of all the E-Waste products and components.

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8. Please detail the recycling processes the ACT contractors use (or will use) for ACT E-Waste recycling, and the location that these processes occur.
9. What process does ACT No Waste and Shared Services Procurement undergo to ensure that social tendering is favoured in its contracts?

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. **Computer recycling:**

A public tender process was run from 25 July 2009 to 18 August 2009 which resulted in the awarding of contract C2009332 for the 'Recycling of Computer Equipment' to TES-AMM Australia Pty Ltd. Contract C2009332 was executed on 17 February 2010. TES-AMM has not indicated that it would not fulfil their contract and continues to meet its contractual obligations.

**Television recycling:**

A Request for Quotation process was run from 28 September 2010 to 19 October 2010 to establish a panel arrangement for the 'Collection, Transportation and Recycling of Televisions from ACT Government Resource Management Centres'. Negotiations are under way. A contract has not yet been awarded.

2. No weight is given.
3. Neither ACT NOWaste nor Shared Services has a specific policy. However, sustainability in procurement is addressed in section 22A of the *Government Procurement Act 2001* through the optimising whole of life costs element of the value for money principle. The ACT Government is a signatory to a number of international agreements that preclude government procurements from favouring local/domestic businesses above certain thresholds.
4. ACT NOWaste currently has one E-waste contractor, TES-AMM. TES-AMM transports some material overseas for recycling.
5. No.
6. When deciding who will receive an ACT Government contract, ACT NOWaste does not give direct weighting to the distance the recycled product must travel. However, distance travelled may be taken into account indirectly, as companies that have lower transport costs may often provide better value for money.
7. ACT NOWaste assessed responses against the selection criteria.
8. Information about recycling processes is available on industry websites, such as [www.tes-amm.com.au](http://www.tes-amm.com.au). A detailed description of the recycling processes used in the E-Waste industry is difficult to provide given the complex nature of the component parts and the processes which vary from recycler to recycler.

9. The Procurement Plan template that has been in use since June 2010 for all procurement facilitated by Shared Services Procurement, requires Directorates to consider the appropriateness of social procurement for each individual procurement. ACT NOWaste complies with Shares Services' procurement process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



8-6-11

Date:

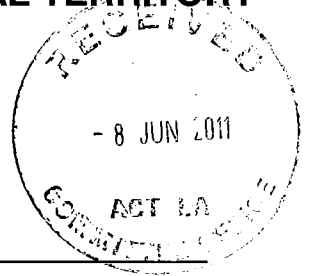
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### QUESTION ON NOTICE



MS BRESNAN: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Transport Planning / new bus services (ref BP3, p86)

In relation to: Planning new public transport services

1. What planning is undergoing to provide Park 'n' Ride facilities, where are these proposed to be, and what are the timelines are for building these facilities.
2. What measurements has the Government done on the patrons using Park 'n' Rides, and how they have impacted on overall bus patronage? (please provide data for individual Park n Rides).
3. Can the Government say how many people using Park 'n' Rides are new patrons that are now using public transport. Does the Government have data on how many people using park 'n' rides were formally people who took public transport for a whole trip, but now drive part of the trip in order to use the park 'n' ride (please provide data for individual Park n Rides).

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:-

1. AECOM consultants have recently completed a feasibility study to identify park and ride facilities across Canberra. AECOM has proposed new facilities in College Street near Haydon Drive; Cotter Road / Kirkpatrick St (for Molonglo); Moyes Crescent near Kippax; and a trial for the expansion of Calwell commuter park and ride facility. \$1.2million has been allocated for Park 'n' Ride construction in 2011-12.

Apart from this planning, park and ride facilities at EPIC (Flemington Road), Purdue Street Belconnen and Mawson expansion have been tendered for construction. These facilities will be completed by December 2011.

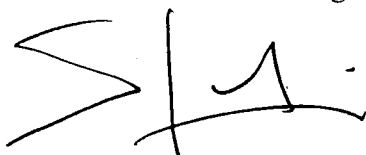
Existing park and rides are located at:

- Belconnen Bus Stations, access from Swanson Circuit. (Blue rapid)
- Woden Interchange, access from Matilda Street (Blue rapid)
- Tuggeranong Interchange, access from Anketell Street (Blue rapid)

- Jamison Centre, access from Bowman Street (peak and local services)
  - Charnwood Shopping Centre, access from Lhotsky Street (peak and local services)
  - Kippax Centre, access from Hardwick Crescent (peak and local services – future Blue rapid)
  - Curtin Shops, access from Carruthers Street (peak and local services)
  - Cnr of Mawson and Athlon Drive (Blue rapid)
  - Kambah Village Shops, access from Marconi Crescent (peak and local services)
  - Kambah Centre, access from O'Halloran Circuit (peak and local services)
  - Chisholm Shops, access from Bentham Street (peak and local services)
  - Calwell Shops, access from Webber Street (peak and local services)
2. The park and rides on the Rapid corridors (currently Mawson and town centres) are well patronised, with a utilisation rate of close to 90%. The impact of these Rapid park and rides on bus mode shift is about 0.3% based on 2006 Census data. The impact of new park and rides such as Mawson and EPIC (Flemington Road) will be assessed from the 2011 census data. A survey of all facilities will be undertaken in 2011-12 once the new park and ride facilities have been opened.
3. A survey of all facilities will be undertaken in 2011-12 once the new park and ride facilities have been opened. However, the ABS 2011 Census data will provide an indication of the use of park and ride between the census periods.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



Date: 6.6.11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell





## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

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### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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MS BRESNAN: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Transport Planning / new bus services(ref BP3, p86)

In relation to : Planning new public transport services

1. Can you provide a total figure from this Budget of the amount of money that is being spent on new roads/road widening/road extensions/road upgrades?
2. Which areas of Canberra have you identified as the places that are most in need of new public transport services that currently do not have them? What method do you use to determine this?
3. What research has the Government done on how an initial lack of public transport services at a new development impacts on people's long term travel habits? (for example if they move somewhere with no public transport do they then 'lock in' to being car users)?
4. What is the Government's most recent work on light rail for Canberra, and what is the intended strategy on light rail project in coming years?
5. What is the Government's position on building a light rail network for Canberra in the absence of Federal funding?
6. What is the Government's position on starting to build light rail – for example just one stage of the network?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The budget includes \$213.09m of investments in new roads/road widening/road extensions and road upgrades over four years 2011-12 to 2014-15. The majority of this funding relates to Majura Parkway (\$144m) and arterial road infrastructure for new developments at Molonglo and Gungahlin (\$63.15m).
2. The public transport infrastructure program and service design is based on the "frequent network" identified in the 2009 *Strategic Public Transport Network Plan*

which includes a recommended infrastructure program and service design for the short term, medium and long term.<sup>1</sup> To develop the frequent network, the Plan took into account Canberra's current and projected urban form, population density, demographic characteristics and type of land use activities.

The 2010-11 and 2011-12 public transport infrastructure program is based on the Plan, and focuses on *rapid* bus corridors that are already in place, or are likely to be introduced into the network in the next five years (due to existing higher density development and associated transport demand).

Detailed public transport service design is also based on:

- i. Balancing transport investments as part of an efficient and equitable ACT Budget
  - ii. Creating an efficient commuter and all day rapid network by expanding the frequent network, with an initial focus on the rapid corridors. Priority rapid corridors for expansion are identified based on patronage data, modelled work travel patterns based on the 2006 Journey to Work census data, potential for growth, and demographics including population density. The commuter (Xpresso) network is planned based on projected peak demand from suburbs to major work destinations.
  - iii. Extending service into new Greenfields developments. This is currently based on occupation rates provided by the Land Development Agency and budget decision-making. A "Public Transport Service Guideline" for new greenfields developments will be released later in 2011 and will guide the future introduction of services earlier into new developments.
  - iv. Providing a bus network for accessible mobility for everyone across the city, including smoothing out timing anomalies, and increasing capacity where feasible in line with MyWay patronage data and customer feedback. The Government is currently mapping areas where there is relatively high transport need and relatively lower transport supply based on ABS census social need indicators, and this will inform future Budget decisions about the "coverage" network.
  - v. Providing alternative community transport options for people who are unable to access a regular route service through the ACT Community Bus Program run through the five Regional Community services.
3. The "coverage services delivery study" (currently underway) will include the development of a "Public Transport Service Planning Guideline" to ensure that public transport services are provided sufficiently early into new Greenfields developments to establish sustainable travel patterns early. There is no ACT-specific data on the travel behaviour impacts of public transport in new developments, but the effect is well established from work in Western Sydney and internationally.

Transport Planning and ACTION are working closely with the Land Development Agency (LDA) to plan new services for the first Molonglo suburbs (including peak

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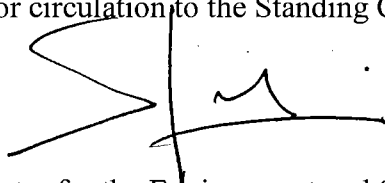
<sup>1</sup> *Strategic Public Transport Network Plan* (2009), McCormickRankinCagney for the ACT Government. Refer: Executive Summary, pp vii – xi  
[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/157996/ACT\\_Strategic\\_PTNP\\_EXEC\\_SUMM.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/157996/ACT_Strategic_PTNP_EXEC_SUMM.pdf).  
 Full "prioritisation list", pp106 – 110  
[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/158268/ACT\\_Strategic\\_Public\\_Transport\\_Network\\_Plan\\_-\\_Chapters\\_4\\_to\\_7.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/158268/ACT_Strategic_Public_Transport_Network_Plan_-_Chapters_4_to_7.pdf)

express and local feeder services supported by park and ride and bike and ride facilities) as soon as possible when residents begin to move in. The detail and timeframe for introducing these services will be communicated to Molonglo residents as part of the LDA's regular marketing and communication programs.

4. The most recent work on light rail in the ACT is the 2009 *Strategic Public Transport Network Plan*, which aims to define long term rapid/trunk public transport corridors that would be the location for a future Light Rapid Transit (LRT) or Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. Prior to the network plan, the 2008 submission to Infrastructure Australia included updated costings and a cost-benefit analysis for a stage one 54km LRT network including the two Rapid corridors (Blue rapid: Belconnen – City – Woden – Tuggeranong, and Red Rapid – Gungahlin to City), as well as a City/Parliamentary zone loop service.<sup>2</sup> The next step for LRT will be the Northbourne Avenue transitway planning corridor study (2011-12 Budget), which will include investigation of whether a smaller first stage of the mass transit network would be economically feasible with LRT or BRT (which could later be scaled up to LRT).
5. Even with the possible re-staging of LRT/BRT to be investigated in the Northbourne Avenue study, a project of this size would still be a considerable investment for a small jurisdiction like the ACT. The Northbourne Avenue study will develop a business case in 2011-12 seeking a Commonwealth and Territory Government partnership through Infrastructure Australia for detailed design and construction of an initial stage of LRT or BRT for Canberra.
6. Refer responses to questions 4 and 5.

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Signature:



Date: 6.6.11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell.

<sup>2</sup> *ACT Light Rail Submission to infrastructure Australia* (2008), prepared for the ACT by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, available at [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/145751/ACT\\_Light\\_Rail.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/145751/ACT_Light_Rail.pdf)



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MR DOSZPOT : To ask the Minister for Education and Training

Education and Training Directorate, Budget Paper 4, page 321, Output Class 2

In relation to: Non-government Schools

1. For each ACT non-government school, please provide the government allocation of funding for the years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 in terms of:
  - a) Capital
  - b) Recurrent (operating) funding
2. What is the methodology behind this allocation?
3. What is the per student funding allocation for non-government schools in the budget years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 for:
  - a) Capital
  - b) Recurrent (operating) funding
4. How do the above rates compare to government schools?
5. For the 'Grants paid to Non government Schools' table on page 321 of Budget Paper 4, please provide the budget allocation for the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

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

1. The budget for grants to non-government schools for the years 2010-11 to 2014-15 is detailed in the table below. The information on a school by school basis is not available as it is confidential under the Deeds of Grant with each school.

Grants paid to Non-Government Schools	2010-11 Est Outcome \$'000	2011-12 Budget \$'000	2012-13 Budget \$'000	2013-14 Budget \$'000	2014-15 Budget \$'000
Commonwealth Government <sup>1</sup>	174,140	146,818	154,649	164,126	166,286
ACT Government <sup>2</sup>	46,773	49,222	50,734	51,978	53,015
<b>Total</b>	<b>220,913</b>	<b>196,040</b>	<b>205,383</b>	<b>216,104</b>	<b>219,301</b>

**Notes**

1. The ACT Government on-passes for Australian Government grants to non-government schools. Details of the specific purpose of the grants is not generally provided to or required by the ACT Government.
  2. ACT Government grants to non-government schools are not specifically provided as recurrent or capital grants. Non-government schools are able to use ACT Government grants for capital or recurrent purposes.
  3. The decrease in 2011-12 Australian Government grants from 2010-11 is primarily due to the completion of the Building the Education Revolution initiative.
2. Australian Government funding is primarily provided to non-government schools using a model based on the socio-economic status of the school population combined with student numbers. ACT Government funding to non-government schools is primarily provided using the previous Australian Government model based on an Education Resource Index (ERI) to assess student need combined with student numbers.
  3. The budgeted per capita funding for non-government students for the period 2010-11 to 2014-15 is provided in the table below.

<b>Average Per Capita Funding Non-Government Schools</b>	<b>2010-11 Budget \$</b>	<b>2011-12 Budget \$</b>	<b>2012-13 Budget \$</b>	<b>2013-14 Budget \$</b>	<b>2014-15 Budget \$</b>
Commonwealth Government	6,582	5,428	5,718	6,068	6,148
ACT Government	1,821	1,987	1,991	1,992	2,031
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,403</b>	<b>7,415</b>	<b>7,709</b>	<b>8,060</b>	<b>8,179</b>

4. It is not possible to provide meaningful per capita funding comparisons for government students due to different operational reporting and accounting structures. For example, the public school system includes special schools and preschool students while the per capita funding to non-government schools, outlined in question 3, does not.
5. The budget allocation for grants paid to non-government schools for 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 is provided in the answer to Question 1.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature: 

Date: 20.6.11

By the Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA : To ask the Minister for Education and Training

Re: Education & Training ,Budget paper 4, page 320, Output Class 1.4

In relation to : Disability Education

1. What is the budget allocation per child with a disability for the years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15?
2. What is the budget allocation for Autism support in schools for the years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014.-15?
3. What is the allocation per school?
  - a) What is this allocation per student with Autism.

Response:

1. There is no budget allocation per student with a disability. Students participate in an appraisal of need process to determine the additional resources needed to access and participate in an educational program. Schools are allocated resources to meet the individual needs of students. The average cost per student in a specialist school and the average cost per student with a disability in a mainstream school are published in the Education and Training Directorate's Annual Report.
2. See 1.
3. See 1.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 13.6.11

By the Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr MLA

#### PLEASE NOTE

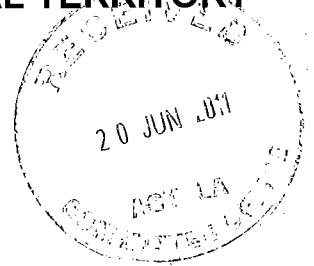
- 1: Answers to questions on notice must be lodged electronically and in hard copy with the Committee Office within **5 working days** of receipt of the question.
- 2: Where an answer provides a referral to sources of information in published documents, the answer should include the exact name of the document, the author and agency publishing the document, the specific page numbers and an electronic link to the document.



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MR RATTENBURY: To ask the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Sustainable Development Directorate, BP 4, pg 293

In relation to: implement a carbon neutral framework for Government

1. Which ACT Government departments (prior to the establishment of new directorates) have not yet completed a Resource Management Plan?
2. What reasons have been given for Resource Management Plans not being completed?
3. Who is responsible for ensuring Resource Management Plans will be completed in each Directorate?
4. When will Carbon Budgets be set for each Directorate?
5. When did the Government receive the report from the Commissioner for the Environment in regards to the "effectiveness and adoption of resource management plans within Government agencies"?
6. What recommendations were made in that report?
7. Have the recommendations been implemented?
8. Who is responsible for implementing those recommendations?

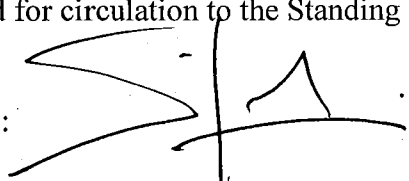
MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. ACT Health and the ACT Planning and Land Authority did not complete a Resource Management Plan.
2. The Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water actively supported the development of agency Resource Management Plans. Reasons for not completing a Resource Management Plan have not been provided.
3. Director-Generals are yet to determine who is responsible for Directorate Resource Management Plans.

4. Carbon budgets will be considered as part of the framework for carbon neutrality.
5. The Commissioner provided the Department with the "Report on an audit/assessment of ACT Government agencies environmental performance reporting" (the Report) in October 2010. This report has not been released. It is anticipated that the report and the Government's response will be issued shortly.
6. The Report made five recommendations:
  - a. a Whole-of-Government resource management strategy should be developed and published;
  - b. environmental resource management plans for all agencies should be finalised;
  - c. data collection and coordination should be centralised;
  - d. the Online System for Comprehensive Activity Reporting should be enhanced; and
  - e. environmental resource use, ecologically sustainable development and triple bottom line reporting should be reviewed.
7. The Report and recommendations are being used to inform the development of the ACT Government Carbon Neutrality Framework and Sustainability Data Management System.
8. The Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate is the lead agency in consideration of the report recommendations.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



Date:

6/5/11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA





# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MR RATTENBURY: To ask the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Sustainable Development Directorate, BP 4, pg 293

In relation to: Climate Change Targets

1. When will the Minister announce the composition of the Climate Change Council outlined in the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*?
2. What are the factors that have led to the delay in announcing the Climate Change Council?
3. Given that the announcement has not yet been made, why were applicants only given 3 weeks to finalise their applications in December 2010?
4. What has been the impact of not having the Climate Change Council up and running in regards to getting community input on the Energy Policy and Weathering the Change Action Plan 2?
5. Will the Climate Change Council have an opportunity to provide advice to the Government on the two policies mentioned above?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The composition of the ACT Climate Change Council will be announced by the Minister at an appropriate time.
2. You will appreciate that this Council will play a pivotal role in the ACT's Climate Change response. Accordingly it is appropriate that careful consideration be given to the initial membership.
3. Three weeks is considered an appropriate amount of time for potential Council representatives to make their interest and qualifications known.
4. No negative impact.
5. The Climate Change Council will provide advice to the Minister in accordance with the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*.

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Signature:

Date:

15-6-11

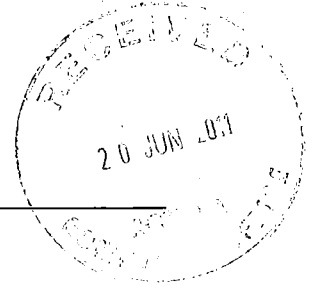
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MR RATTENBURY: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

Ref: Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, BP 4, P 294, output class 1.1

In relation to: the statement made by the Minister during estimates that the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan would cost the ACT up to \$220 million per year.

1. Is this statement based on the report from the Centre for International Economics (CIE) titled "Cost to the ACT of proposed SDLs"?
2. If so, can the simulations relied upon by the CIE in making that finding be provided to the Committee? (refer to page 15 of the CIE report where references are made to "ActewAGL simulations")
3. If the simulations can not be provided to the Committee, why not and what supporting information can be provided to support the finding on the potential economic impact of the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) Yes, the statement that the proposed sustainable diversion limits in the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's *Guide to the proposed Basin Plan* (the Guide) would cost the ACT up to \$220 million per year is drawn from the CIE report titled *Cost to the ACT of proposed SDLs*.
- (2) Yes, the simulations relied upon by CIE are provided below. The REALM model of the ACT water supply system was run by ActewAGL to identify how the ACT would keep net urban water consumption (gross diversions minus treated wastewater returned to the river system) within the Guide's proposed sustainable diversion limits (SDL) using temporary water restrictions.

For the purposes of this exercise, a comparison was made between net water abstraction under current arrangements and under the Guide's mid-range SDL scenario of 23 GL per annum (which converts to 20 GL/a for urban use with 3 GL/a for non-urban use). Net water abstraction under the two scenarios is set out in *Table 1* (Attached). The probability of water restrictions in each year required for the two scenarios to meet the net abstraction figure calculated by the model is set out in *Table 2* (attached).

The results show that in order to achieve an average net urban abstraction of 20 GL/a under the SDL scenario, the model commences in a combination of Stage 2 and Stage 3 restrictions, with higher levels of restrictions required more frequently towards the end of the model run.

(3) Not applicable. The information requested in question 2 is provided above.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



Date: 15-6-11

By the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA

**Table 1: Comparison of net abstraction**

Financial Year	Baseline Scenario			Net Abstraction Reduced to 20 GL/year		
	Average Consumption (GL/year)	Average Canberra & Queanbeyan Sewage Outflow (GL/year)	Average Net Abstraction (GL/year)	Average Consumption (GL/year)	Average Canberra & Queanbeyan Sewage Outflow (GL/year)	Average Net Abstraction (GL/year)
2011/12	66.7	34.0	32.7	49.8	32.3	17.5
2012/13	66.5	33.9	32.6	50.2	32.2	18.0
2013/14	66.3	34.2	32.0	50.3	32.6	17.7
2014/15	68.2	34.3	33.9	51.5	32.6	18.9
2015/16	69.2	34.1	35.1	52.5	32.4	20.1
2016/17	69.6	34.3	35.3	52.9	32.6	20.3
2017/18	69.4	34.3	35.2	53.3	32.6	20.7
2018/19	69.9	34.5	35.3	53.9	32.9	21.0
2019/20	70.2	34.4	35.9	53.5	32.6	20.9
2020/21	70.2	34.3	35.9	53.3	32.6	20.7
2021/22	70.6	34.5	36.1	53.8	32.8	21.1
2022/23	70.9	34.0	36.9	54.4	32.3	22.1
2023/24	72.1	34.5	37.6	55.3	32.8	22.5
2024/25	73.3	34.6	38.7	56.1	32.8	23.3
2025/26	74.6	34.9	39.7	52.7	32.6	20.1
2026/27	75.7	35.0	40.7	50.8	32.4	18.3
2027/28	76.8	35.0	41.7	51.5	32.4	19.0
2028/29	77.5	35.3	42.2	52.2	32.7	19.5
2029/30	79.0	35.4	43.6	53.1	32.7	20.3
2030/31	79.3	35.3	44.0	52.3	32.5	19.8
2031/32	80.8	35.3	45.6	52.0	32.3	19.6
2032/33	82.3	35.5	46.8	52.7	32.5	20.2
2033/34	83.0	35.8	47.2	53.4	32.7	20.7
2034/35	83.9	36.0	47.9	54.2	32.9	21.2

**Table 2: Probability of Water Restrictions**

Financial Year	Baseline Scenario Probability of Restrictions					Net Abstraction Reduced to 20 GL/year Probability of Restrictions				
	Stage 1 or worse	Stage 2 or worse	Stage 3 or worse	Stage 4 or worse	Stage 5	Stage 1 or worse	Stage 2 or worse	Stage 3 or worse	Stage 4 or worse	Stage 5
2011/12	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2012/13	4.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2013/14	3.9%	2.3%	0.7%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2014/15	2.2%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.1%	0.0%	0.0%
2015/16	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2016/17	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2017/18	2.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2018/19	1.3%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2019/20	1.5%	1.0%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	33.4%	0.0%	0.0%
2020/21	1.2%	1.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.7%	0.0%	0.0%
2021/22	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.9%	0.0%	0.0%
2022/23	1.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.7%	0.0%	0.0%
2023/24	1.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.7%	0.0%	0.0%
2024/25	1.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.7%	0.0%	0.0%
2025/26	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.7%	16.7%	0.0%
2026/27	1.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%
2027/28	1.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%
2028/29	2.0%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%
2029/30	2.9%	1.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%
2030/31	4.3%	2.8%	1.5%	0.6%	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	33.3%	0.0%
2031/32	5.8%	2.7%	1.1%	0.2%	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.7%	0.0%
2032/33	5.9%	1.7%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.7%	0.0%
2033/34	6.0%	2.5%	0.8%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.7%	0.0%
2034/35	7.1%	2.4%	1.1%	0.5%	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	41.7%	0.0%



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**



Asked by Brendan Smyth MLA on 26 May 2011: Craig Simmons, Director, Construction Services Branch, ACTPLA took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript 26 May 2011 page 105

In relation to: Section 100 City

**THE CHAIR:** All right, so section 100, what is the—is that under a holding lease or—

**Mr Savery:** That is under a holding lease to—2015 is the date for completion of Precinct D.

**THE CHAIR:** So how long have they had a holding lease on that section?

**Mr Savery:** More than—close to 15 years, I think. It is a fair time.

**Mr Simmons:** I would need to confirm that.

**SIMON CORBELL:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Holding Lease for blocks 1 and 2 Section 100 City expires on 14 March 2015.

The original Holding Lease commenced on 14 September 2001.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date: 15-6-11

By the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA





**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

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**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

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MR RATTENBURY MLA: To ask the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development.

Ref: Sustainable Development Directorate, BP 4, pg 293

In relation to: Strategic Objective 2: Finalise a Sustainable Energy Policy

1. According to the 2008-09 Annual Report and 2009-10 Annual Report, Kinesis was awarded \$300,787 to develop strategies towards Zero Net emissions. According to the Procurement Solutions contract register the contract with Kinesis was for \$195,000.
  - a) Why is there this discrepancy in the amounts paid?
  - b) Was there another contract allocated? If so, what was the brief for the other contract?
  - c) Why isn't the other contract on the Procurement solutions website?
  - d) What was the additional work undertaken for the additional allocation?
2. The DECCEW Annual Reports indicates the reason for a single select tender was due for a need for a "timely response was required to inform ACT Greenhouse Reduction targets".
  - a) Given the Kinesis report is dated 8 December 2009 why did it take until 26 August 2010 before this report was released?
3. According to the 2008-09 Annual Report and 2009-10 Annual Report, Heuris was awarded \$187,229 to develop strategies towards Zero Net emissions.
  - a) Why is there is no contract listed on the Procurement Solutions website?
  - b) Was the original contract with Heuris for \$187,229? If not, what was the amount?
  - c) Was any variation to the contract made?
4. Given almost \$500,000 has been allocated to both these companies to develop strategies why was there a need to secure Pitt and Sherry to undertake similar work?
5. The contract with Pitt and Sherry is titled "Weathering the Change Action Plan 2 Development."
  - a) What was the rationale for this additional contract?
  - b) Why wasn't the need for this additional external expert advice on Weathering the Change Action Plan 2 recognised earlier?
  - c) What are the factors leading to ongoing failure of the Department to bring forward Action Plan 2?

6. The expiry date for the Pitt and Sherry contract as listed on the Procurement Solutions website is 1 May 2011.
  - a) Has the contract been finalised?
  - b) Have the workshops specified in the contract agreement between Pitt and Sherry and the Government taken place? If so, when were they held and which agencies attended?
7. Why was it necessary for Pitt and Sherry to “Develop a “business as usual” emissions projection to 2060” when this was already a function of the Heuris report?
8. In December 2010, the Strategic Economics Consulting Group provided DECCEW with the report entitled “Final Sustainable Energy Strategy”.
  - a) What was the purpose of this contract and how was it different from the earlier (Kinesis and Hueris) consultancies?
  - b) When was the contract with Strategic Economics Consulting Group signed?
  - c) What was the brief for this contract?
  - d) How much was the consultancy amount?
  - e) Was the contracted completed within the time frame agreed in the contract?
  - f) Why is it not listed on the contracts register?
  - g) Why has it the report not been made public?
  - h) When will the Government make this report public?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1.
  - a. The 2008/09 annual report lists the figure for Kinesis as \$177,273. This is the contract value, \$195,000 excluding GST. The 2009/10 figure is the actual expenditure in that financial year, \$128,514. These two figures should not be added to get \$300,787 over the two years. The correct contract amount as on the Procurement Solutions website is \$195,000 including GST.
  - b. No
  - c. n/a
  - d. n/a
2.
  - a. The report was used as input to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*. It was released following passage of the Act.
3.
  - a. The contract is available on the Procurement Solutions website.
  - b. The 2008/09 annual report lists the figure for Heuris as \$100,000. This is the contract value, \$110,000 excluding GST. The 2009/10 figure is the actual expenditure in that financial year. These two figures should not be added to get \$187,229 over the two years. The correct contract amount as on the Procurement Solutions website is \$110,000 including GST.
  - c. No
4. This consultancy was to further cost assess and scope measures, with quantified greenhouse gas emissions impacts, to be incorporated into the forthcoming Weathering the Change Action Plan 2.
5.
  - a. As above.
  - b. The requirement for the consultancy became apparent following the passage of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*.



- c. The ACT Government remains firmly committed to evidence-based policy development that is not driven by arbitrary timeframes.

Action Plan 2 is a critical document that will set the pathways towards meeting the ACT Government's greenhouse reduction targets. Its implementation will impact on all Canberrans.

Developing Action Plan 2 is a complex task that requires:

- the identification and assessment of all potential pathways and actions;
- the conduct of a detailed cost benefit analysis;
- an assessment of the impacts of pathway options;
- an assessment of the impact of other programs and the Commonwealth's carbon pricing scheme; and
- the identification and assessment of ACT specific adaptation strategies.

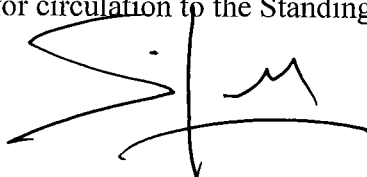
It is more important that this work be comprehensive, tailored to the ACT's requirements and its impact fully assess and properly considered by Government. Although the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate has the lead accountability for Action Plan 2 it is, of course, a policy that must be developed in collaboration with other Directorates. Moreover, a policy of this nature which will deliver this Government's ambitious greenhouse has reduction targets has never been done in the ACT (nor by most Australian jurisdictions). The question is therefore based on the mistaken view that the task is simple and any delays are wilful. Neither is true and there has been no failure on the part of the Directorate.

- 6.
- a. No.
  - b. Workshops were held in February and March 2011 and were attended by DECCEW, TAMS, ACTPLA, Treasury and Chief Minister's Department.
7. Heuris projected emissions out to 2050. Pitt&Sherry were required to update and extend these projections to 2060 in line with the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*.
- 8.
- a. Strategic Economics Consulting Group was asked to deliver:
    - i. a Final Sustainable Energy Policy 2010-2010 document for public release; and
    - ii. an implementation appendix with detailed discussion and modelling of individual policy measures.The Kinesis and Heuris studies informed the broader greenhouse gas abatement strategy. The Sustainable Energy Policy is a subsidiary part.
  - b. The consultancy commenced in September 2010.
  - c. See question (a).
  - d. The cost of the consultancy was \$69,740 (GST inclusive).
  - e. The project was completed within agreed timeframes to a high quality.
  - f. The contract is not listed on the register due to there being no formal contract in place. Internal processes have been rectified to ensure that all such contracts are listed on the register.

- g. The final report will be informed by, and harmonised with, Weathering the Change Action Plan 2, which is currently being finalised with a detailed analysis conducted by Pitt and Sherry.
- h. The report will be released with Action Plan 2.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a vertical line and a smaller, more complex scribble.

Date: 12.8.11

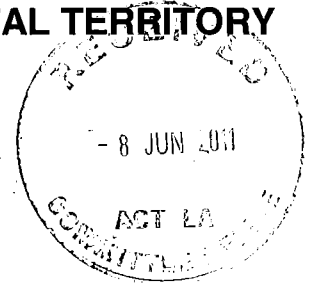
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms LE COUTEUR asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development;

In relation to: New waste policy initiatives

I see that there are no major new waste initiatives in this budget, I gather due to the development of the waste policy.

1. Are you able to tell us what process the department is currently undertaking in terms of developing an assessment process for new waste technologies?
  - a. Will the new climate change impact analysis tool be applied to any new technologies that the Government is considering purchasing?
2. Are you able to give us any details on
  - a. progress with regard to a Dirty MRF, or
  - b. a new commercial clean MRF? (Materials Recycling Facility)
3. The indicator on p.300 shows a target of '1' for delivering a waste strategy, rather than a date – what is the planned date for the release of the final waste strategy?
  - a. Will there be any more opportunities for public input at any stage of the development of the strategy?

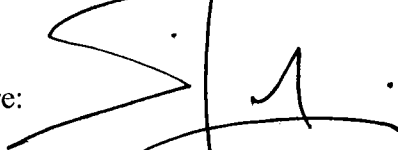
MINISTER CORBELL - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) are currently in the process of finalising the draft waste strategy. As part of this process ESDD will be procuring a consultancy on the potential provision of new waste services technologies in the ACT. The scope of works will incorporate technical and financial risk; Net Present Value; budgetary impact for the Territory Government; and greenhouse gas emissions as well as market research to determine the ability of industry to provide these services.
  - a. Greenhouse gas emissions will be considered in the assessment of alternative waste management options.
2.
  - a. A residual-waste Material Recovery Facility is one of the technologies that is being evaluated as part of the ESDD consultancy.
  - b. The Government issued a Requests for Proposal (RFP) from industry in December 2010 to build and operate a dry commercial waste Material Recovery Facility in the Hume Resource Recovery Estate. Negotiations are presently under way with the preferred respondent.

3. The final waste strategy will be released later this year.
  - a. No. Comprehensive industry consultation was undertaken while developing the draft waste strategy. Formal public consultation was undertaken with six public meetings and one industry meeting over the 11 week public consultation period on the draft waste strategy.

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Signature:



Date: 7.6.11

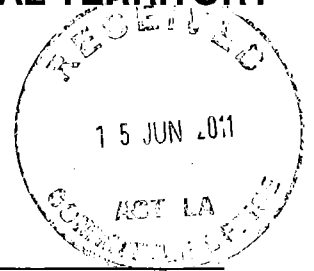
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell.



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MS LE COUTEUR: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Heritage, Budget paper 4, page number 297, Output 1.1: Environment Protection and Water.

In relation to: Provisional Heritage Listings

1. Is St Patrick's Church still provisionally listed on the Heritage Register even though the period of effect of provisional registration ended on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2011?
2. Has a decision about whether to permanently list St Patrick's been made?
  - a. If the decision has been made, when will the public be notified of that decision?
  - b. If the decision has not been made, when will the decision be made, what are the causes of the delay, and when will the public be notified of that decision?
3. How many provisional heritage listings have had the period of effect end before a final decision has been made?
  - a. For what reasons have the listings lapsed before final decisions?
4. What does having the period of effect end mean for the heritage protection of the building that had been provisionally listed?
  - a. Does the protection given by provisional registration still apply once the period of effect has ended?
5. Can the Heritage Council still make a ruling on the registration of a building after the period of effect of the provisional listing has lapsed?
  - a. If not, what is the process for placing that building on the Heritage Register?
6. If the building is no longer protected once the period of provisional registration has ended, are the interested persons notified that the period of effect has ended?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Although the provisional registration period for St Patrick's Church ended on 19 February 2011, the Church is still legally provisionally registered under the *Heritage Act 2004* (the Act).

2. A full registration decision has yet to be made for St Patrick's Church.

- a. Not applicable (see 2 above)
- b. The Council may make a decision at its July meeting.

In complex cases such as St Patrick's Church where master planning has already been completed prior to the place being nominated, there is often a range of issues to consider which can take longer than the prescribed 5 month provisional registration period.

In this instance, comments on the provisional registration period continued to be submitted to the Council long after the public consultation period expired.

While the Council has no legal obligation to consider these late comments, a decision maker has an obligation to apply procedural fairness in making a statutory decision and a failure to do so may be a ground of judicial review.

The Council's June meeting was deferred pending re-appointment of Members.

- c. The Act sets out timeframes for notification in which:
  - i. interested Parties are notified which is within 10 working days;
  - ii. the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) also notifies their decisions in the Canberra Times as soon as possible after the decision is made; and
  - iii. the decision is posted on the Heritage Unit's website.

3. Fifteen places have had the provisional registration period lapse prior to a final registration decision being made.

- a. A variety of reasons exist for a place's provisional registration period to lapse prior to a final decision on registration for example:
  - i. as above, the Council may continue to accept and consider late submissions if they believe procedural fairness is warranted;
  - ii. under the Act, the Council provides a report to the Minister on issues raised during the public consultation period. The Minister may require the Council to further consider issues raised.
  - iii. Council meeting dates may fall just outside the provisional registration period lapsing and a final decision being reached; and

4. The effect of the provisional registration period lapsing has no effect legally speaking.

The only statutory mechanism under the Act to extend the provisional registration period is for the Minister to grant an extension to further consult with Registered Aboriginal Organisations.

- a. Previous advice provided by the Government Solicitor's Office notes that protection still applies for places where the provisional registration period has lapsed. Under the Act, protection actually occurs at the Council's acceptance of a nomination.

5. Legal advice received notes that section 40 of the Act requires the Council to make a final decision on registration.

The fact that provisional registration has lapsed does not mean that the obligation to make a final decision about registration has lapsed. That obligation continues until the decision is made.

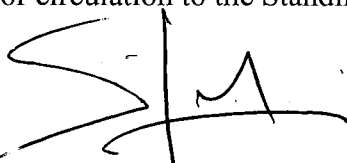
The Act does not require the Council to provisionally register a place again if the initial provisional registration has lapsed.

a. N/A

6. The building is still protected. There is no requirement to inform Interested Parties that the provisional registration has lapsed.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



Date:

14-6-11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**



MS LE COUTEUR: To ask the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Heritage, Budget paper 4, page number 297, Output 1.1: Environment Protection and Water.

In relation to: Compliance officer for heritage protection

1. Will the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate provide funding for a full time heritage compliance officer as recommended by Australian Capital Territory Heritage Act Review?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Government is still considering its response to the Heritage Act Review. As part of the organisation of the new Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, consideration will be given to the placement of this role within a wider lease compliance unit.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date:

14.6.11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA

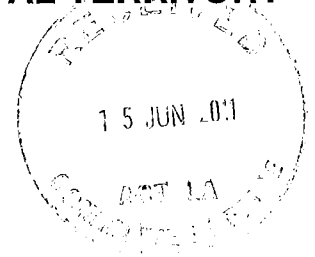




# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS DUNNE: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: BP4, p291

In relation to: Output 1.1 – Environment Protection & Water – Urban Waterways

- (1) What is the cost for construction of each of the Dickson, Lyneham, O'Connor and Flemington Road ponds?
- (2) What is the cost of reticulation infrastructure associated with each of the ponds in (1)?
- (3) What is the estimated annual maintenance cost for these systems?
- (4) What price per KL will be charged to users of the water from those systems?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The construction costs of ponds are: Dickson and Lyneham Ponds ~\$9.7 million (includes pond civil works, pump stations and reticulation connections); Flemington Road Ponds ~\$5.4 million; Banksia Street Wetland O'Connor ~\$370,000.
- (2) The costs of reticulation associated with: Dickson and Lyneham Ponds and Flemington Road Ponds is in the order of \$10.5 million. Banksia Street Wetland is not part of the reticulation network.
- (3) The estimated annual maintenance cost for the Inner North Reticulation Network is in the order of \$400,000. This will be tested during the proposed two year trial.
- (4) The Government is yet to establish a price per KL for stormwater supplied by the networks.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date:

14.6.11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MRS DUNNE: To ask the Minister for the Environment & Sustainable Development

Ref: Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate BP4, p291

In relation to : Output 1.1 – Environment Protection & Water – Budget funding

- (1) Removing the Heritage component from the figures, how does the budget funding for Output 1.1 for 2011-12 compare with the estimated outcome of \$5 million for 2010-11?
- (2) Why any difference?
- (3) What frontline services will be affected as a result?

MINISTER CORBELL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

- (1) 2010-11 Estimated Outcome - \$5.032 million  
2011-12 Budget - \$4.805 million  
Difference - \$0.227 million

It should be noted that the 2011-12 budget figures do not represent the final structure of the Directorate and are subject to change.

- (2) Reasons for the difference –

*Add:*

\$0.150 million new initiative funding (noise standards)  
\$0.124 million additional Commonwealth funding  
\$0.087 million indexation

*Less:*

\$(0.369 million) Cessation of rollover funding consisting of:

- \$0.150 million Civic Petrol plume
- \$0.019 million Review of the Environmental Flow Guidelines
- \$0.200 million for the review of the Environment Protection Act.

\$(0.100 million) Cessation of 2010-11 initiative funding for the Wood Heater Survey

\$(0.119 million) Savings required.

- (3) Front line services are not expected to be affected by the 2011-12 budget allocation.

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Signature:

Date:

15-6-11

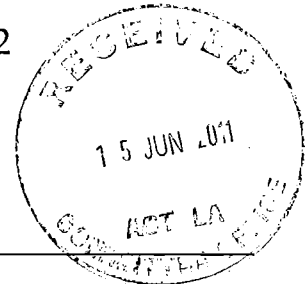
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS DUNNE: To ask the Minister for the Environment & Sustainable Development

Ref: BP4, p291

In relation to : Output 1.1 – Environment Protection & Water – Output description

- (1) What public education programs on water resources management has the directorate delivered to the community to date in 2010-11 and what has those programs cost?
- (2) What programs are planned for 2011-12 and what is the budgeted cost?
- (3) What is the nature of water resource compliance matters that the directorate has investigated during 2010-11, how long did the investigations take and what were the outcomes?

MINISTER CORBELL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Urban Waterways Program produced 'Understanding Canberra's Wetlands: a school curriculum program for the study of constructed urban wetlands'. The curriculum program cost \$24,347 (GST inclusive) to develop and produce.

Education is also a component of delivering programs such as ToiletSmart and GardenSmart programs. These two programs provide feedback to the program participants on how water efficient their homes and gardens are and provides water efficiency advice. Information packs are also provided at the time of the visit which contains additional information in the form of fact sheets. The education component of these programs has not been separately identified. The total budget for the ToiletSmart program in 2010-11 is \$666,000. The total budget for the GardenSmart program in 2010-11 is \$256,000.

- (2) Education as a component of the ToiletSmart program and the GardenSmart program will continue in 2011-12. The total budget for the ToiletSmart program in 2011-12 is \$683,000. The total budget for the GardenSmart program in 2011-12 is \$263,000.

(3) Compliance matters dealt with to date during 2010-11 were:

- The appeal of a Direction by the Environment Protection Authority to seal an unlicensed residential bore. Heard in the ACAT and Supreme Court. Current and ongoing since 2008.
- Disciplinary Notice for not holding a Water Access Entitlement. Resolved within 2 months.
- Warning letters for not installing a meter and not having an operational meter. Resolved immediately.
- Warning letter for conducting works in a waterway without a licence. Current, initial response not yet due.
- Warning letter for not keeping meter readings. Resolved within 1 month.
- Advisory letters for not recording meter readings. Resolved immediately.

None of these matters required a formal investigation.

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Signature:



Date:

24-6-11

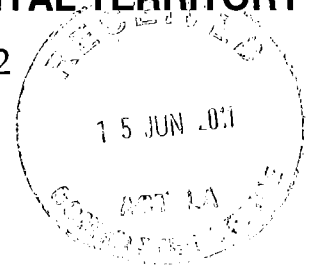
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS DUNNE: To ask the Minister for the Environment & Sustainable Development

Ref: Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, BP4, p291

In relation to : Output 1.3 – Climate Change and Natural Environment – Accountability  
Indicator b – Review of *Nature Conservation Act 1980*

- (1) How much has this review cost to date and what is the estimate of the costs to complete the project?
- (2) What is the status of the revised Nature Conservation Strategy, by what process, including public consultation, will a new Strategy be developed and finalised and what is the timetable?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Review has cost \$110,490 to date. It is estimated that finalisation of the review will cost a further \$20,000.
- (2) The Nature Conservation Strategy is being revised by the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD). The Directorate is currently seeking a number of inputs from relevant ACT Government areas, and a draft document is being prepared. It is anticipated that the draft Strategy will be released for public comment in the third quarter of 2011, and the Strategy finalised in the first quarter of 2012.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date:

14.6.11

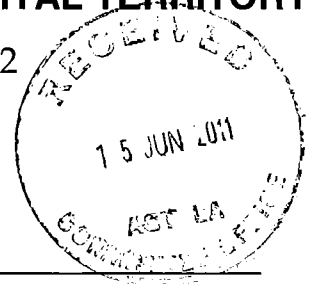
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**



MRS DUNNE: To ask the Minister for the Environment & Sustainable Development

Ref: Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate BP4, p291.

In relation to: Staffing

- (1) What capital injections/upgrades will be required to accommodate and resource the 30 additional staff and what is the budget for these injections/upgrades?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) All additional staff will be located within existing accommodation, therefore it is not expected that any additional capital injections/upgrades will be required. There may be some minor fitout expenses of a recurrent nature required, associated with establishing the new Directorate.

Each initiative makes an allowance for on-costs for new employees. This allowance includes accommodation and resourcing.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date:

14.6.11

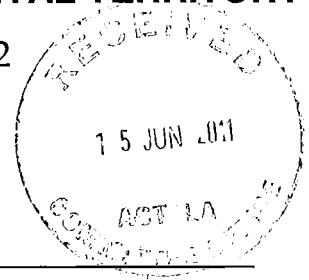
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MS DUNNE: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Directorate, Budget Paper 4, page 292

In relation to : Business and corporate strategies (the four dot points under this section, ref BP4, p292)

(1) How will the directorate measure and report on these goals?

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

(1) These activities relate to the manner in which the business activities of the new Directorate will be aligned with Government priorities and community expectations. As such they are largely internal management tools and are not intended of themselves to be separately reportable. Their effectiveness will be assessed in the context of their contribution to the wider outcomes of accountability and professionalism measured in the Strategic Objectives outlined in Budget Paper 4, pages 293 to 296.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date:

14.6.11

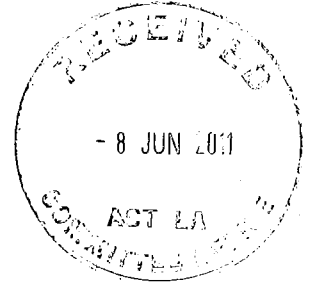
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE  
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Vicki Dunne MLA on 31 May 2011

Ref: Hansard Transcript: BP4, p291

In relation to: Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

- (1) Why has the Commissioner recommended an environmental levy?
- (2) What is proposed for how the levy would be spent?
- (3) In what way is it proposed the effectiveness of the expenditure of the levy would be measured?
- (4) What consultative process was followed in coming to the recommendation for a levy?
- (5) What total annual revenue is estimated the levy will generate?
- (6) How is it proposed the levy will be collected?

Dr Maxine Cooper: The answer to Ms Dunne's question is as follows:

I am conducting an Investigation into the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores. To inform this Investigation, Ms Lisa Miller, was commissioner to provide a paper on levies. Her paper, *Funding Options for the protection of the Environment through enhanced management actions* is attached.

The report on this Investigation is still being finalised. It will address issues related to Ms Dunne's questions.

### PLEASE NOTE

1. Answers to questions taken on notice must be lodged with the Committee Office within **5 working days** of the hearing date, electronically and in hard copy.
- 2: Where an answer provides a referral to sources of information in published documents, the answer should include the exact name of the document, the author and agency publishing the document, the specific page numbers and an electronic link to the document.



E11-545

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature: 

Date: 3 Feb '11

By the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Maxine Cooper

**Paper: Funding Options for the Protection of the  
Environment Through Enhanced Management  
Actions.**

**Author: Lisa Miller, BSc**

**Miller Consulting**

**8 December 2010**

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## Introduction

This paper has been prepared to identify a range of funding options for enhanced environmental management as well as some case studies of funding, how they were established and what are the successful attributes.

The paper has been commissioned by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment to assist particularly on work associated with the Investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest which included a term of reference to investigate and report on: "... resource implications associated with an enhanced program".

Governments around the world have been attempting to manage their environmental responsibilities in the context of a rapidly changing legislative and policy framework. Given the extent of our environmental impact it is often difficult to set appropriate priorities with limited funds available given competing demands. In addition, we all grapple with the extent to which we 'maintain' current environmental amenity versus how we might continually improve and enhance that amenity.

This paper outlines the results of a review of funding mechanisms adopted by local and state governments around Australia. Traditional funding through rates and taxes is largely spent on environmental management undertaken as part of an organisation's legislative requirement. This is seen as a minimum funding source.

Information was sought from local Councils and state and territory governments around Australia through web searches and telephone conversations. The search included Annual Reports and financial statements to verify funding streams. Local government searches included: Perth City Council (WA), Nedlands (WA), Harvey Bay (WA), Adelaide City Council (SA), Adelaide Hills Council (SA), Barossa Valley Council (SA) Melbourne City Council (VIC), Nillumbik Shire Council (Vic), Blue Mountains Council (NSW), Hornsby Shire Council (NSW), Manly Council (NSW), Wollongong City Council (NSW), Sydney City Council (NSW), Randwick Council (NSW), Warringah Shire Council (NSW), Newcastle Council (NSW), Wingecarribee Shire Council (NSW), Brisbane City Council (QLD) and Sunshine Coast Regional Council (QLD). In addition research was gathered from the Australian Local Government Association and the Department of Local Government NSW. The South Australian government and NSW governments were also trawled for information via the web.

Each government area has specific environmental attributes and values. Most often it is the unique environmental attributes of an area or region that residents value the most. However, the management and maintenance of such attributes is often beyond the means of governments from traditional rate and tax bases.

There is a general reticence by residents to pay any more in rates and taxes than they currently do. Pannell, 2010 asserts that: "the opportunity cost of public money is important to the community". However, for specific projects or to improve the amenity of things they value, such as environmental improvement public expenditure is often seen in a positive light. To prosecute a case for increased funding for environmental management it is important to clearly define which environmental outcomes are most important from an ecological perspective and the most successful funding

programs arise where these outcomes match community values and expectations. The funding request cannot be based solely on a populist view of priority or importance because from an improved environmental amenity perspective this is bound to fail and the money will have been wasted ruining any future chance to of garnering support for additional funds.

## **Funding Options**

It should be pointed out that no one funding stream is the panacea for all shortfalls in funding. Indeed in most organisations the strategy is to seek multiple funding streams for any given project or program. Funds received from one funding stream, for example an environment levy, are then 'leveraged' by the organisation to gain broader sponsorship, grants, in-kind support and so on. Many organisations have identified that 'seed' funding from the environment levy is often, in the end, small in comparison to, say, the in-kind value they received for the whole project from the private or government sector.

That being said the role of project managers in implementing programs needs to encompass not just the technical skills to deliver the project but the relationships, knowledge and networks to continue to recognise the leverage opportunities and the value adding that may attract additional funds from the private and government sector. This is a specific skill set that must be recognised and employed for this leveraging of funds to occur. The Councils most successful at gaining additional funds for enhanced management possess have the ability to 'sell' their projects to a range of audiences and who work hard at understanding the participants in the broader environmental agenda. These individuals are also very good at communicating their success – success breeds success.

## **Special Rates (Environment Levy)**

Due to rate capping and continued devolution of responsibility, local governments throughout Australia have sought a range of mechanisms to increase their funding streams. One option available to Councils is a 'Special Rate'. Several other local government bodies use environment/tree/bushland levies outlined in Table 1.

To effect a special rate in NSW Councils have to meet a number of criteria and the rate can only be approved by the Minister for Local Government. Amongst other things the criteria includes:

- the special rate must be for a specific project or range of projects,
- residents must be consulted about the rate (they don't have to agree to it for it to be approved);
- there must be a sunset clause (the rate must be for a specific period of time); and
- the rate can only be implemented as a percentage of their rates, not as a set amount per ratepayer (which often leads to difficulties in garnering public support for the rate as Councils have difficulty communicating exactly how much the levy will cost each household).

Table 1. Environmental levies in Australia

Council	Levy	Description	Coverage	Rates	Comments
Adelaide City Council (SA)	Natural Resource Management Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The levy funds vital projects that manage, protect and restore the region's water, land, marine, coastal and biodiversity assets.</li> </ul>	Rateable properties		<p>The levy raised \$857,000 in 2010 and was in addition to the Environment and Sustainable City budget of \$1.2 million.</p> <p>The NRM levy is imposed by the South Australian government on all Councils in SA, whereby the Councils collect the revenue from all rateable properties on behalf of 8 regional NRM Boards</p> <p>The Environmental Levy projects identified for funding include but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Education &amp; Awareness programs for the community, school groups, local business and Council staff;</li> <li>2. Water conservation projects</li> <li>3. Energy conservation projects</li> <li>4. Street Trees</li> <li>5. Cycleway projects.</li> </ol>
Ashfield (NSW)	Environmental Levy	The Environmental Levy as part of a special rate variation provides funding to implement programs in line with the ESD Policy.	residents and businesses – payable by all properties that are charged general rates	The Environmental Levy is charged across all rateable properties as a 50% Base Amount and the remainder as an ad-valorem rate.	
Bega Shire Council	Environment Levy		Rateable properties	Approved in 2002/03 at 4.96% of rateable properties	
Blue Mountains Council (NSW)	Environment Levy	<p>Levy funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>weed control</li> <li>water quality improvements</li> <li>walking track maintenance</li> <li>Threatened species conservation</li> <li>rehabilitation of degraded lands</li> </ul>	All rateable properties	Approved in 2005 of 3.65% of general revenue	Levy was introduced in 2005 and raises \$1.174 million annually
Brisbane City (QLD)	Bushland Preservation Levy Environment management and compliance levy	<p>Brisbane residents and businesses pay Bushland Preservation Levy as part of rates. Levy goes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protection and enhancement of the natural environment</li> <li>creation of a world-class natural area network for Brisbane</li> <li>contributes to the Living in Brisbane 2026 vision for a "clean, green city".</li> </ul>	Brisbane residents and businesses – payable by all properties that are charged general rates	<p>\$49.80 – bushland preservation levy</p> <p>\$22.76 – home owners, however differential rate depending on zoning</p>	<p>Environmental management and compliance levy covers the protection of waterways from toxins, trash, sediment, effluent discharge and landfill gas control. The charge also includes remediation of landfills to meet Council's obligations under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p>
Coffs Harbour Council (NSW)	Environmental Levy			\$25 per rate payer	Raises around \$700 000 per annum for environmental activities within the Shire. This has allowed council to employ a Biodiversity Officer and a Sustainability Officer. Other activities funded include an incentive program for land management, implementation of council's Koala Plan of Management, support of volunteer groups, bushland regeneration projects, and the restoration of coastal reserves and fish habitats.
Crows Nest Shire (QLD)	Environmental levy			\$20 per rate payer pa	NRM and biodiversity projects.

Council	Levy	Description	Coverage	Rates	Comments
Eurobodalla Shire Council, (NSW)	Environmental Levy	Used to fund things such as: Dunecare, Estuary Management, Weed control and Foreshores studies	residents and businesses – payable by all properties that are charged general rates	50 is flat rate of \$16 and 50% is based on land valuation	
Hornsby Shire Council (NSW)	Environment Levy	<p>Funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sediment basins;</li> <li>• artificial wetlands;</li> <li>• gross pollutant traps;</li> <li>• creek remediation works;</li> <li>• environmental education;</li> <li>• water quality monitoring and research;</li> <li>• environmental compliance and management;</li> <li>• industrial auditing.</li> </ul>	Rateable properties	5% levy on rateable properties	The levy raises \$2.564 annually for catchment management projects
Ku-ring-gai Council (NSW)	Environmental Levy	Used to fund bushland, waterways and urban environment.	Base on land valuation (approx 0.0001 of land valuation) works out at about \$60 residential		Commenced 2005 to operate for seven years. Raises over \$1.7 m pa. Enables Council to build on existing activities and attract other Government Grant funds to conserve and improve Ku-ring-gai's highly valued natural environment, including urban bushland, parks and reserves.
Lake Macquarie (NSW)	Sustainability & Environment Levy		Rateable properties	\$26 per household \$91 business per assessment.	
Liverpool City Council	Environment Levy		Rateable properties	Approved in 2002/03 at 3.28% of general rates	
Manly Council	Environment Levy		Rateable properties	Approved 2002/03 at 4.65% of general rates revenue	
Maroochy Council (QLD)	Environment Levy (introduced in 1997 as Vegetation Conservation Levy)				Recognised the need to protect and conserve the shire's natural assets, introducing in 1997
Newcastle City Council (NSW)	Environment Levy		Rateable properties	Approved 2002/03 at 4.97% of rateable properties	

Council	Levy	Description	Coverage	Rates	Comments
Warringah Shire Council (NSW)	Environment and Stormwater Levy	Raised to fund beach restoration programs, Narrabeen Lagoon restoration works and Bushland program	Rateable properties	6.9% of general revenue	Levy is 6.9% of general revenue raising \$1.9 million capital and \$3.95 million operating budget
Wingecarribee Shire Council (NSW)	Environmental Levy		Rateable properties		The levy has been in place since 2000. The aim of the current levy is to raise \$3m over five years to fund programs that protect the environment. A large benefit of the levy has been attracting matching funds from government agencies and generating volunteer work from the community. To date over 26 bushland projects have been completed with another 20 underway.
Woolahra Municipal Council (NSW)	Environment Levy		Rateable properties	Approved 2002/03 at 7.28%	



In 2002/2003 the Minister for Local Government in NSW was asked to approve 27 Special Rates across NSW. Of those requested nine were either wholly or mostly for environmental initiatives, all of which were approved. Of the remaining 18 requests five were not approved. The rate increases requested for environmental initiatives ranged from 3.28% to 15.14% of general revenue, the Minister approved between 3.28% and 8.52%. The Division of Local Government (part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet) viewed special rate increases for environmental initiatives very positively and strongly encouraged Councils to seek one or as many rates as required. The duration of the special rate ranged from 3 to 15 years.

By 2002/2003 the Department observed that the majority of councils in NSW, over one hundred, had in place a special rate increase for environmental initiatives. The remainder had some form of 'environment fund' from general rates revenue.

Only one Council – Hornsby – has an environment levy in perpetuity as it had approval before the sunset clause was added as a criterion .

The types of levies introduced, whether for example for trees or aquatic systems, is only limited by imagination. Some levies were very generic in title and application while others were quite specific. More recently the trend seems to be to keep the title of the levy as broad as possible and amend specific priority areas and projects as they arise. Most Councils, however, produced a plan of expenditure for the levy for 3-5 years.

#### **Hornsby Shire Council – Catchment Remediation Rate**

Hornsby Shire ('the Bushland Shire') is north of Sydney and covers an area of 51,000 Ha of which approximately 67 percent is bushland. Of this bushland 52 percent is managed by the state government (National Parkes and Wildlife Service - NPWS) and 17 percent is managed by Council. The shire also has extensive estuarine areas and recreational waterways. This case study reflects the view of Hornsby that vegetation projects are part of "core" business and the catchment environmental program requires additional funds to address through a special rate or levy mechanism.

The special rate was approved in 1994 with a view to enabling Council to properly manage the Shire's waterways and catchments.

The environment levy is in perpetuity at 5 percent of general revenue and raises (2009) \$2.564 million annually. Some of the projects it funds include:

- sediment basins;
- artificial wetlands;
- gross pollutant traps;
- creek remediation works;
- environmental education;
- water quality monitoring and research;
- environmental compliance and management;
- industrial auditing.

Most of the bushland managed by Council is within the Berowra Valley Regional Park and is jointly managed by NPWS, there are many smaller reserves throughout the shire under Council's sole care and control. Other relevant bushland environment programs are funded through general revenue at Hornsby include:

- Land for wildlife program – this is a voluntary property registration scheme aimed at maintaining and enhancing native flora and fauna on private property and community owned land. The program provides advice, incentives (grants) networking and information to registered landholders. The registration is non-binding.
- Rural lands incentive program – to encourage rural land holders in their conservation efforts and the environmental management of their property – providing technical advice and cash incentives.
- Bushcare program – the Council has over 850 registered bushcare volunteers working on over 130 sites to restore native vegetation.

The Council produces an Annual Report on its Catchment Remediation Program to inform residents where the funds have been spent.

#### **Warringah Shire Council - Environmental Stormwater Special Rate Levy**

Warringah Shire Council has significant bushland, magnificent beaches and a major coastal lagoon system within its area. In 1996 the Council introduced the Environmental Stormwater Special Rate (ESSR) Levy of 6.9 percent of general revenue. The 6.9 percent equates to an average \$52 per year per household.

The ESSR levy funds water quality improvement works, coastal protection and enhancement, improved floodplain management, the protection and restoration of important bushland areas and ancillary projects that support the community in maintaining Warringah's unique natural environment.

The Council produces an annual report detailing the year's levy expenditure. In 2009/10 the Council raised \$1.935 million for capital works and \$3.954 million for operation works.

#### **Wollongong City Council - Environment Fund**

The Wollongong City Council – Environment Fund provides an interesting case study on the introduction of an environment levy.

In 2003 the Environment Manager asked the Councillors to consider introducing an Environment Levy, it was 18 months from a local election and she wanted approval to begin the consultation with the community on the proposal as required by the department of local government.

Previous community surveys on the environment at both the local and state level had found a consistent high regard for environmental protection and management. The surveys highlighted residents:

- Were more concerned about the environment than any other community across the state (EPA, 2000).
- unanimously supported sustainable projects for Wollongong's future (IRIS, 2002, 1500 respondents).
- wanted more dollars spent on the environment (IRIS, 2002).

- “70% were not against the idea of a levy to fund sustainable projects” (IRIS, 2002).

A survey was conducted in June 2002 to gauge general interest in a levy before the question was put to Councillors. After Councillors agreed to begin the public dialogue about an environment levy a further survey in May 2003 indicated that the response by the community was consistent with the 2002 response including that, although they did not agree with the proposal in its current form, 77% still agreed to an environmental levy.

- June 2002
  - Unanimous support for sustainable projects such as stormwater
  - 42% in favour of an environmental levy
  - 28% were not against the idea of a levy
  - 57% prepared to pay \$60 or more a year
  - 75% were prepared to pay at least \$12 or more a year extra
- May 2003
  - 90% concerned about the environment
  - 36% in favour of the levy as it is proposed
  - 60% against the proposal at 4%
  - Only 23% not prepared to consider a levy for environmental projects at all.

Following a campaign by a few vocal opponents of the levy the Council introduced an Environment Fund of \$1 million per annum from its general revenue. At the same time Kempsey Council introduced a levy, despite widespread community opposition to it. The levy proposed by Wollongong City Council was 2.9% for three years. The levy approved by Kempsey was 9% for five years.

Staff of other Councils at the time told Wollongong Council staff that initial community reaction to the introduction of a levy was negative yet the levy, once implemented, was seen by the community and Councillors as being very successful with widespread community support. Discussions with Department of Local Government officers revealed that, to their knowledge, no community had ever been in favour of the introduction of a levy but all had been supportive once the levy was introduced.

Yet at Wollongong the general public was in favour of the introduction of a levy and prepared to pay as much as \$60 per year (the average payment for the 2.9 percent levy was \$18).

One of the selling points of the levy was the potential to leverage levy funds to garner state and federal grants and private sponsorship. During the five years of the environment fund Council was able to attract a further \$15 million in grants and sponsorship. Therefore the environment funds

were leveraged by a ration of 1:3, for every \$1 of ratepayer funds the Council received \$3 from the state, federal or private sector for its environmental management program.

An Environment committee was established to administer the environment fund with community representatives from each of the six Wards as well as two Councillors and the Professor of Environmental Science from Wollongong University. A community contract was prepared (refer Appendix A) to provide transparency in the process of spending the funds. An annual report card on the environmental fund projects was available to residents and posted on the web site.

### **Brisbane City Council – Environmental Management and Compliance Levy and Bushland Preservation Levy**

Brisbane City Council is the largest in Australia. The City covers a diverse environment with many unique attributes of high value to its residents. The Council has introduced two levies; the Environmental Management and Compliance Levy and the Bushland Preservation Levy. The first covers the protection of waterways from toxins, trash, sediment, effluent discharge and landfill gas control. The charge also includes remediation of landfills to meet Councils' legislative obligations (Brisbane City Council, 2010).

The Bushland Levy was introduced in 1991 and covers city bushland purchase and protection, including public access facilities. The set charge is reviewed annually (Brisbane City Council, 2010). The levy is used to purchase land that supports the natural resource objectives of the Council and is primarily used to support significant ecosystems, plants and animals through the Bushland Acquisition Program. Once purchased the land is converted into conservation reserves. Over 2,500 Ha have been protected since the program began, including:

- Karawatha Forest;
- Brisbane Koala Bushlands; and
- Tinchi Tamba Wetlands (Brisbane City Council, 2010).

Brisbane residents and businesses pay a Bushland Preservation Levy and an Environment Management and Compliance Levy and as part of their rates. The Bushland Preservation levy funds:

- protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- creation of a world-class natural area network for Brisbane
- the Living in Brisbane 2026 vision for a 'clean, green city'.

The Bushland Preservation levy in 2010 is \$49.80 and is payable by Brisbane residents and businesses – all properties that are charged rates.

The Environmental Management and Compliance levy covers the protection of waterways from toxins, trash, sediment, effluent discharge and landfill gas control. The charge also includes remediation of landfills to meet Council's obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The levy in 2010 was \$22.76 for home owners and is payable by Brisbane residents and businesses – all properties are charged and it is a differential rate based on zoning.

Brisbane City has a similar private lands program as Hornsby called Land for Wildlife program where interested landholders join the program and receive free advice on protecting and enhancing the environment, Habitat Brisbane which supports volunteer groups, voluntary conservation

agreements and a program that provides free plants for residents. These projects are also funded through the Council's Bushland Preservation Levy (Australian Local Government Association, 2010).

### **Sunshine Coast Regional Council – Environment Levy**

The former shire councils on the Sunshine Coast each introduced levies to manage their unique environmental attributes. The regional Council in its first year of operation 2009-2010 continued that levy regionally and charged each household \$60 to continue to implement the environmental program. In 2009 the regional Council introduced an Environment Levy Policy which outlines the levy expenditure over the next five years.

From the website:

Key objectives of the environment policy are:

- protecting environmentally significant land through acquisition, as part of a wider strategy for landscape and habitat protection and rehabilitation
- responding to the region's key environmental challenges and producing on-ground actions
- open, transparent management of Environment Levy revenue
- partnering with a range of stakeholders, community based and government, to improve conservation and sustainability outcomes

Key funded initiatives across the three themes outlined in the endorsed Environment Levy Policy for the next five years include:

#### **Land acquisition**

\$16.19m towards:

- [land acquisitions](#) [PDF 38KB] to build on the existing conservation area network and focus on consolidating larger conservation areas for future generations to enjoy
- establishment costs of acquired land
- planning, surveying and legal costs associated with acquisitions

#### **Major initiatives and catalyst projects**

- \$7.055m for developing and implementing a waterways and coastal foreshores strategy and on-ground projects
- \$317,000 for developing and implementing a regional biodiversity monitoring and reporting framework
- \$250,000 towards regional pilots and catalytic projects
- \$175,000 for developing an innovative pest management system
- \$1.2m towards coastal dune rehabilitation

#### **Grants, incentives and partnerships**

- \$8.32m for community environment grants, voluntary conservation agreements on private lands and partnership agreements with community groups and non-government organisations to undertake environmental initiatives.

\$8.32m for community environment grants, voluntary conservation agreements on private lands and partnership agreements with community groups and non-government organisations to undertake environmental initiatives.

### **Philanthropy**

Whilst the Australian community is not perceived as highly philanthropic this should not be underestimated. During disasters we are one of the most philanthropic societies in the world and we have a very high rate of volunteerism. Philanthropy can take a number of forms but the two most obvious and sought after are cash and in-kind. However, other types of donations can greatly contribute to our collective community assets – for example land was bequeathed to Wollongong City Council for the sole purpose of establishing a Botanical Gardens. These gardens are now one of the best regional Botanic Gardens in Australia and are visited by an estimated 150,000 annually.

The key to any philanthropic program is to clearly define what philanthropy is sought and how it will be spent. For example many Councils that run successful Bushcare programs have Bushcare coordination officers who can recruit volunteers and garner support for particular areas and gradually grow the program with available support. The community is continually informed about the areas the groups are active in and how residents can participate in their local area.

Another successful philanthropic program is run through community street tree plantings. A number of Councils such as Brisbane City ask residents to nominate where plants should be planted and have tree policies in place that encourage landholders to support and supplement the community program. There are further opportunities to develop the street tree concept in the same way memorial plaques around cities are payed for by the community. Funds could be sought through a web-based mechanism to offer trees for plantings with plaques identifying the species and the name of the contributor. The process needs to be simple and cost effective. It is clearly unsustainable to run a program that attracts small amounts but is costly to administer.

Some Councils and state and territory governments have established voluntary land acquisition programs. These could also include philanthropic donations of land that would support natural resource objectives.

To encourage philanthropy the giver needs to know the receiver will value the donation. It is worthwhile to establish a philanthropic strategic action plan that identifies what type of philanthropy is sought and how it can be supported by the organisation and articulated to the community.

### **Grants and Sponsorship**

All of the Councils discussed in the above case studies for environmental levies have sought grant funding from state and federal government. Many have been successful in these applications before they imposed a levy but the introduction greatly increases their success rate as most grant criteria is based around 'bang for buck'. If the Council can contribute funds to the project it increases the overall value of projects funded by government. In fact some funding is stipulated as 50/50, for example the federal governments' stormwater reuse grant, matching funds are a mandatory criteria.

There are other grants available outside the government sector, established by philanthropic foundations or business' for example the Ian Potter Foundation is a Melbourne based philanthropic fund that will support a range of programs including environmental enhancement around Australia.

In addition to grants there are sponsorship funds that can be sought through the private sector. The contribution could be cash or in-kind and can contribute significantly to a projects success. For example Brisbane City Council attracted significant land contributions by public and private landholders for its 2 Million Tree program. The land contribution added a significant amount of land that could be used for a range of environmental enhancement.

### **Community Services Programs**

Another "funding" source that works well in conjunction with other funding streams is the community service programs administered through the courts system. The community service orders issued by the courts for various criminal activities require a certain number of hours to be registered; often it is difficult for participants to reach these hours as few agencies host community service programs. Wollongong City Council utilises this "free" labour to perform tasks in the environmental area such as litter removal and tree planting. The Council estimates the work undertaken by this workforce saves the Council approximately \$280,000 a year and reduces the cost of these works to the community.

### **Carbon Offsets**

Carbon offsets represent a reduction in atmospheric greenhouse gases through sinks such as forest carbon, relative to a 'business as usual' baseline. Carbon offsets are tradeable and often used to offset all or part of another person or organisations emissions.

In order for domestic offset projects to be eligible under the national standard they must occur within Australia and fit the following criteria:

- be **additional** – greenhouse gas reductions generated by the project must be beyond what is required by legislation and beyond that which would have been normally been carried out by the business;
- be **permanent** – that the carbon stored is sequestered and will not be released into the atmosphere in the future;
- be **measurable** - methodologies for calculating the carbon sequestered must be robust and based on a defensible scientific method;
- be **transparent** – information on the project needs to be publicly available and clarify data sources, exclusions, inclusions and assumptions;
- be **independently audited**; and
- be **registered**.

NSW has a mandatory Greenhouse Gas Scheme (NGAS) now called Energy Savings Scheme. Under the NGAS any reforestation on land within NSW is eligible for credits and therefore the Googong Foreshore area would be eligible. Whether on the mandatory or voluntary markets any additional revegetation is eligible to trade in the carbon market. NSW Forestry currently is an active trader and provides credits for both the mandatory and voluntary markets.

Brisbane City Council estimates the mass plantings of Kholo/Mount Crosby store approximately 6 tonnes of carbon per hectare per year. The total land area at this site is 80 Ha. Therefore the site is generating approximately 480 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e sequestration per year. On the current market that is between \$5,280 and \$24,000 per annum (Carbon Offset Guide price of \$11-\$50+ per tonne)

### **Attributes of Success**

The following attributes seem to significantly contribute to the success of funding options for enhanced environmental management.

- It is important to formulate and articulate a clear vision and objectives, a case for the activity needs to be prosecuted once everyone understands the 'what', the 'why' and the 'how' they can then get on board, if the staff aren't convinced no one else will be. What is the overall strategy? The objectives should be measurable, for example "net increase in native plant number and diversity";
- Political support is vital. Even highly unpopular decisions will become popular once the full benefits are realised and communicated. Most Councils did not have community support to implement a levy but all identified significant community support after the levy was operational;
- Transparency: successful programs, whether through additional funds or general revenue, clearly articulated what the funds were to be spent on, why and what was achieved (Habitat rehabilitation, water quality improvements, carbon sequestered and so on). A careful measurement and monitoring program needs to be incorporated into the program activities and costs so that the information can be communicated back to the public. An active consultation program is required to fulfil the requirements of transparency. It is not enough to have the report available it must be actively communicated to the community: web site, forums, workshops, media releases, shopping centre displays etc
- Diversity of funding streams: each successful Council was active in pursuing multiple funding streams and this was one of the key 'selling' points of an environment levy. To attract external grants and sponsorship required a management plan – some strategy that underpins the program of works or project. This relates back to the vision and objectives of the levy
- The most successful organisations in attracting funds had charismatic leaders; people who had technical skills around the environment, for example science, but who also were entrepreneurial in their approach and had developed networks in the public and private sector. They knew what projects had additional benefits for other organisations and knew how to leverage that to attract additional funds and in-kind contributions, these leaders brought the community along with them (e.g Stella Whittaker – Hornsby Council, Skye Rose – Manly Council; Dr Mike Mouritz – Newcastle City Council).
- The more successful environmental levies either had a 'sunset' clause, which was usually five years, or there was annual review of the program. One of the limitations of a levy identified by David Pannell, 2005 was that any inefficiency in spending priorities may be locked in. Therefore a review and/or sunset clause can allow an organisation to better manage a current priority but does not perpetuate the spending once the priority changes.



- The levy did not replace general revenue funding on the environment. This was one of the perceptions for scepticism by the public, environmental legislative requirements usually supported by general revenue and the levy for specific projects that reflect the community values of the environment.
- Successful organisations didn't promise too much initially. Once the levy is in place there is a "gearing up" period where staff are employed and tenders written and awarded before the first sod is turned. Many organisations showed an under expenditure from approved budget in the first couple of years. This needs to be strongly managed and communicated so that the whiff of failure does not begin to surround the program. The public can start to become sceptical as to whether the money was really needed in the first place if it is not spent in a timely way.

This review has highlighted a number of funding streams outside the general taxes and revenues. An environmental levy can be implemented and attract significant funds for environmental programs without causing any long term stress to residents. The levy can then underpin more transitory or volatile funding streams such as grants, sponsorship, philanthropy and carbon trading. However, once a funding stream is secured all other leverage opportunities should be explored to leverage the ratepayer or taxpayer dollar.

It should be noted that introducing an environmental levy requires some political leadership but all of the cases discussed through local Councils or Departments of local government proved popular in the long term with residents. Once residents 'see' the benefits this often aligns with their environmental values.

## References

- Australian Local Government Association, 2010. Case studies of council biodiversity projects.
- Carbon Offset Guide, 2010. [www.carbonoffset.com.au](http://www.carbonoffset.com.au). Project of RMIT and EPA Victoria.
- Brisbane City Council, 2010. How Rates Are Calculated ([www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au))
- David Pannell, 2005. Pannell Discussions: Thinking like an economist 19: Should we have an environment levy.
- David Pannell, 2010. Heathens in the chapel? Economics and the conservation of native biodiversity.

**Appendix A: Example of a Community Contract and Policy**



## environment fund

# COMMUNITY CONTRACT

To ensure community participation and Council accountability in the Environment Fund, Council will initiate a Community Contract. The Community Contract will detail a comprehensive program of environmental works, which will focus upon the themes of flood, bushfire, stormwater quality, natural asset protection and education. All these programs will enhance the integrity of our environment and preserve it for future generations.

The Community Contract will report back to the Community on the projects funded by the Environment Fund. This will demonstrate a transparency and full public accountability of all funds spent in the Environment Fund.

All work identified within the Community Contract will be undertaken funded by a dedicated \$1m program per year that will be reported in the Community Contract. Additionally, any external project grant funds that have been made available from either State or Federal bodies will also be reported in the Community Contract.

The Community Contract will be reported in the Annual Report, Council's website and the State of the Environment Report and periodic communications.

Annually, a report will be brought forward on the State and Federal matching grants which the Fund has attracted, as well as detailed information of the projects to which the moneys have been assigned.

As part of the Community Contract the Environment Fund will be placed on public exhibition for endorsement/comment by the community. The Program is to be reflective of the State of the Environment Report, including indicators.



Council Administration Centre, 41 Burelli Street Wollongong

Locked Bag 8821, South Coast Mail Centre, NSW 2521. Phone 4227 7111



environment fund

# ENVIRONMENT FUND POLICY

## Vision

Wollongong City Council is committed to the protection of the environment, its enhancement and the promotion of environmental sustainability.

## Objectives

The Environment Fund is structured within the Environmental Management Program and will incorporate functions across most divisions of Wollongong City Council. The Environment Fund will be co-ordinated by the Environment Fund Governance Committee in the rehabilitation of the environment which has been affected by our community activities.

The Environment Fund will:

- communicate this policy, objectives and targets to the citizens of Wollongong,;
- establish programs and set targets within a dedicated Environmental Management Plan to protect and enhance plants, animal, land and water that may be affected by our activities;
- promote environmental sustainability awareness among the citizens of Wollongong;
- report on performance of the Environment Fund through the periodical 'State of the Environment' Report; and
- through a "Community Contract" conduct periodic audits of the Environment Fund and communicate these to the citizens of Wollongong.

All projects administered by the Environment Fund will give consideration to the care of the plants, animals, air, land and water which may be affected by those activities and give consideration to the long term costs and benefits of these projects in relation to economic, social and environmental impacts.

To fulfil this commitment, the Wollongong City Council will observe the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development within the Environment Fund-Environmental Management Plan

Cr Alex Darling  
Lord Mayor  
City of Wollongong

Rod Oxley, PSM  
General Manager  
Wollongong City Council





# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MR SESELJA: To ask the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Sustainable Development Directorate, BP 4, pg 293

In relation to: The Government Office Block

1. What evidence did DECCEW provide the consultants in the development of the Government Office Block reports?
2. Which of the 16 reports do these relate to?
3. What has been done since these reports were completed?
4. Has DECCEW conducted any analysis on the extent of how the Government Office Block will contribute to the Government's goals to be carbon neutral by 2020, and zero net emissions by 2060 for Canberra?
  - a. If so, what were the agency's findings?.

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Economic Development Directorate has the lead on the Government Office block. The Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate participated in interdepartmental consultations.
2. The Economic Development Directorate has the lead on the Government Office block.
3. The Economic Development Directorate has the lead on the Government Office block.
4. The Economic Development Directorate engaged consultants to undertake an analysis of the Government Office Block. A 79% reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions has been estimated, when compared to existing building stock. (*Industry Briefing Executive Summary*).
  - a. n/a

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Corbell', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

17.6.11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

ZED SESELJA MLA: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development (redirected to Treasury)

[Ref: Sustainable Development Directorate, Budget paper 4, pg 293]

In relation to : Prospective Carbon Tax

1. What impacts will it have on the ACT should a national price on carbon be introduced?
2. How much more will this affect household's electricity and petrol bills?
  - a. How is this calculated?

TREASURER : The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:-

1. The ACT Government has not analysed the impacts of a carbon tax on the ACT. Given the details of the tax including the rate and offsetting compensation have not been determined, any analysis undertaken at this stage would be speculative and would not promote informed discussion.

The Garnaut Review 2011 ([www.garnautreview.org.au/update-2011/garnaut-review-2011/garnaut-review-2011.pdf](http://www.garnautreview.org.au/update-2011/garnaut-review-2011/garnaut-review-2011.pdf)), released in May 2011, provides the most recent and authoritative analysis of the impact of a carbon tax on the Australian economy and relies heavily on Commonwealth Treasury modelling undertaken in 2008. It could generally be expected that the national impacts would be reflected in the ACT.

The Garnaut report notes (p.79) that 'a carbon price has some short-term negative effects on productivity growth and incomes'.

The Garnaut report also notes (p.82) 'Analysis conducted for the 2008 Review suggested that the CPI would have risen by 1.1 percentage points following the introduction of a carbon price at \$23 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2010'.

#### PLEASE NOTE

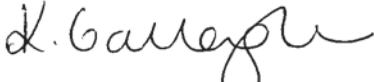
- 1: Answers to questions on notice must be lodged electronically and in hard copy with the Committee Office within **5 working days** of receipt of the question.
- 2: Where an answer provides a referral to sources of information in published documents, the answer should include the exact name of the document, the author and agency publishing the document, the specific page numbers and an electronic link to the document.

On 7 June 2011, the Commonwealth Treasurer outlined conclusions of recent Treasury modelling for a \$20 carbon price. Real national income will grow at an average annual rate per person of around 1.1 per cent until 2050 instead of 1.2 per cent. Aggregate employment is approximately the same with or without a carbon price.

2. In relation to electricity prices, the Garnaut report notes (p.162) that 'Analysis by the Australian Treasury in 2008 predicted that in the first five years of carbon pricing, average household electricity prices would initially increase by around 20 per cent...' based on reducing emissions by 5 per cent from 2000 levels by 2020, and a carbon price of about \$26 per tonne rising by four percentage points per annum plus the general inflation rate.

In relation to petrol prices, the Garnaut report notes (p.81) 'There have been considerable concerns about the distributional effects of increases in petrol prices associated with carbon pricing, particularly for those living in outer suburban and regional areas. .... They are actually small in relation to incomes and compared with the effects of variations in world oil prices'.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature: 

Date: 17/6/11

By the Treasurer, Katy Gallagher, MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012



## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MR SESELJA: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Sustainable Development Directorate, Budget paper 4, pg 293

In relation to: Renewable Energy

- (1) To what extent do the ACT's policies on abatement measures adhere to the Commonwealth Government's (COAG) Principles for Assessment of Measures to Complement Price on Carbon?
- (2) It has been noted in the Budget Papers that in 2011-12 the Sustainability Directorate will: a) Finalise a Sustainable Energy Policy, b) Continue to promote the Feed-In-Tariff, and c) Support the uptake of renewable energy, eg GreenPower and solar hot water.
  - (a) Have or will these initiatives be assessed against COAG's principles for complimentary measures?
  - (b) What impacts would this have on the key measures in the Climate Change Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act?
- (3) It is noted in BP3, pg88 that the Government intends to raise its uptake of renewable energy to 37.5%. Given that there was a prior initiative to increase renewable energy from 30 to 32.5% in FY2010-11 (\$302,000), what is the total cost of increasing the use of renewable energy to 37.5%?
  - (a) What is the impact of this on the Government's electricity bill?
  - (b) What is the impact of this to household electricity bills?
    - (i) Is this in addition to the \$225 increase as a result of the Minister's continuation of the feed-in tariff?
- (4) How much will that cost to get to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2016? Please provide these details on a yearly basis from 2010-11 to 2016-17.

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

- (1) New and existing abatement policy measures will be reassessed continually to ensure that they remain complementary to newly introduced national policies.



(2)

- (a) New and existing policy measures in the ACT will be reassessed continually to ensure that they remain complementary to newly introduced national policies; for example, a national price on carbon. This requires a flexible and iterative approach that maintains the effort to meet the climate change challenge at the lowest economic and social cost. Pricing carbon will provide incentives for cleaner energy and the smarter use of energy. A national carbon market will help direct abatement efforts towards the lowest-cost sources of abatement in the national economy. However, the ACT's own greenhouse gas reduction targets may require us to implement carbon reduction measures beyond that required nationally.

It is noted that the COAG guidelines themselves were originally developed to complement the introduction of the Carbon Trading Scheme (which did not eventuate) and are subject also to ongoing revision.

- (b) The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 (the Act) does contain 'measures'. The application of the COAG principles will ensure that new measures developed to meet the targets set out in the Act are appropriate, efficient and effective.

(3)

- (a) \$0.61 million has been provided in the 2011-12 Budget to fund the increased use of renewable energy. Renewable energy is a separate premium cost from the general consumption charges paid by agencies for electricity consumed.

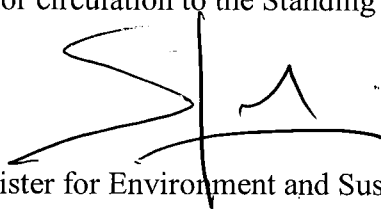
- (b) This commitment is funded out of the ACT Budget and therefore has no impact on household electricity bills.

(i) No. As a point of correction, the ACT Feed-in-Tariff Scheme at this time has only a maximum \$50 per annum impact on domestic electricity bills.

- (4) The cost of moving to 100 per cent renewable (green) energy target in 2011-12 would need to be tested in the market before any definitive answers to this question can be provided.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



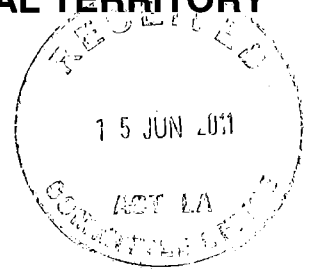
Date: 14.6.11

By the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012



## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MR SESELJA : To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Sustainable Development Directorate, BP 3, P102.

In relation to: Improving energy and water efficiency for low income and disadvantaged households measure

1. How many households per year will this additional funding provide assistance to?
2. How was this measure costed? Please include the method, assumptions, data and the source of the data.

MINISTER CORBELL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. It is estimated that the additional funding of \$4.362 million over four years will enable assistance to be provided to an additional 1400-1800 households over four years, depending on the mix of services and products accessed by each household.
2. The measure was costed using information from the 2010 trial Outreach program and the Water and Energy Saving in the Territory (WEST) program that has been operating since 2003 in its present form. The expanded Outreach program includes additional services for client households, in the form of home energy efficiency assessments, retrofitting of energy and water efficiency improvements and energy efficiency education as well as funding for energy efficiency officers in the main community welfare organisations delivering the program. The mix of services needed by individual households will vary and the extent that multiple services will be accessed by households will significantly influence the total number that can be assisted. In addition, the current program delivery model will be subject to annual reviews and improvements to achieve maximum efficiency. These issues mean that estimates of the additional number of households that can be assisted may need to be modified in the light of experience.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date: 14.6.11

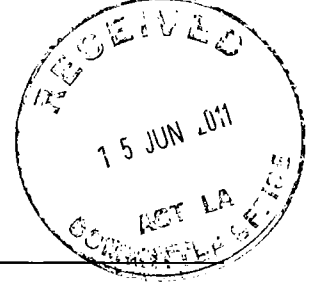
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MR SESELJA: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Sustainable Development Directorate, Budget Paper 4, Page 293

In relation to : The ACT Solar Feed-In Tariff

1. Since the inception of the scheme, how many participants are there in the micro generation category to date?
  - a. How much has the Government spent and expects to spend on micro generation category premiums each year from 2009-10 to 2014-15?
  - b. Please provide by year, a breakdown of the number of participants entering the scheme in this category.
  - c. At what rate does the Government expect the number of micro generation category participants to rise each year until 2014-15?
  
2. How many participants are there in the large scale generation category to date?
  - a. How much has the Government spent and expects to spend on premiums each year from 2009-10 to 2014-15 for the large scale category?
  - b. Please provide by year, a breakdown of the number of participants entering the scheme in this category.
  - c. At what rate does the Government expect the number of large scale generation category participants to rise each year until 2014-15?
  
3. How many participants are there in the medium scale generation category to date?
  - a. How much has the Government spent and expects to spend on premiums each year from 2009-10 to 2014-15 for the medium scale category?
  - b. Please provide by year, a breakdown of the number of participants entering the scheme in this category.
  - c. At what rate does the Government expect the number of medium scale generation category participants to rise each year until 2014-15?
  
4. Is the premium passed on in full to electricity prices?

- a. If no, how are these premiums passed onto increased prices?
  - b. What dollar increase is passed onto consumers for an addition 100kW produced through the solar feed-in tariff scheme? Please provide this per household.
5. Given comments that these schemes are bad for low income earners, how does the Government view this scheme in light of the strategic objective of 'equitable energy supply'?
  6. Have anticipated growth rates been revised since the Federal Government's decision to cut the solar panel subsidy by \$1,000?
    - a. What impact does the Government anticipate this will have on the uptake of the scheme?
  7. What is the ACT Government's view on the Federal Minister for Climate Change's comments that State run feed-in schemes are partly responsible for significant electricity price increases?
  8. How is the Government monitoring the scheme's total capacity?
    - a. How will the Government ensure that applications will not continue to be received so that total capacity allowed by Legislation will not be exceeded?
  9. What percentage of the overall scheme cap is currently being used?
  10. What is the total expected cost to the Government over the life of the scheme?
  11. What is the average time elapsed between the installation of solar panels and the system being fully integrated and operating in the system?
  12. Is the Government aware of any complaints relating to the installation of roof top systems? In particular:
    - a. The excessive delay which can be experienced in having an inspection of a system after it has been installed?
    - b. The excessive delay which can be experienced in having the relevant metre fitted to the system?
    - c. The excessive delay which can be experienced in having the system actually connected to the electricity grid and turned on?
    - d. What is the Government doing about these?
  13. Is there potential to have some of the above functions performed by the same person rather than different visits?
    - a. If not, why not?
  14. Are you aware of any difficulties which have been experienced by people wanting to lodge complaints and not being able to make a connection with the complaints are through the specific complaints phone line?
    - a. If so, what action have you taken about these concerns?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As at 31 March 2011 there were 3,659 renewable energy generators connected to the ACT electricity grid. This represents a growth of 3118 since the commencement of the Scheme in March 2009. There were 541 pre-existing installations.
  - a. The ACT does not pay the Premium to generators. This cost is passed through by ACT electricity retailers via by the ACT Electricity Distributor (ActewAGL) to all ACT electricity account-holders. This pass through is in accordance with Australian Energy Regulator approvals.
  - b. The Scheme commenced in March 2009 and has operated in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years. Numbers of applicants as follows, noting that the 2010/11 year is not yet complete.
 

2009/10	541 new participants
2010/11	3118 new participants (to March 2011)
  - c. The Micro Generator component of the Scheme was closed on 31 May 2011. It is anticipated that the final number of connections once outstanding application are processed will be about 6,600.
  
2. This Scheme has not commenced. The legislation to establish the Large Scale Generator Scheme has not yet been considered by the Legislative Assembly.
  
3. The Medium Generator category was introduced on 7 March 2011. To date only 1 formal application to the Scheme has been received.
  - a. The ACT does not pay the Premium to generators. This cost is passed through by ACT electricity retailers via by the ACT Electricity Distributor (ActewAGL) to all ACT electricity account-holders. This pass through is in accordance with Australian Energy Regulator approvals.
  - b. To date only 1 application to the Medium Generator Scheme has been received.
  - c. The Medium Category (for generators of more than 30kW and up to 200kW capacity) is capped at 15 megawatts. The number of participants in the scheme is dictated by the size of each individual installation within the range. There are no annual quotas on the number of applications that can be received.
  
4. No.
  - a. The legislation provides that the electricity retailer may recover the cost of Premiums paid less the *Normal Cost of Electricity Factor* (currently set at 6 cents per kilowatt hour). This means that the first six cents of every unit of electricity Premium is borne by the retailer in recognition of the wholesale price they would have paid in any case for a unit of purchased electricity from the grid. At the current rate of 45.7 cents per KWh only 39.7 cents is passed through to consumers.
  - b. The question as originally phrased was unclear as kilowatts are not a measure of electrical output. My Directorate sought clarification and the Committee advised of an amendment to indicate the unit as kilowatt hours. In that case the total per annum cost to consumers of 100kWh is \$39.70. Dividing that

amongst all ACT electricity account-holders gives an annual impact of about .003 cents.

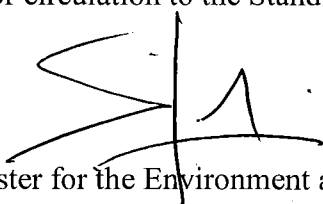
5. The Strategic objective of 'equitable energy supply' refers to an equality of *access* to supply and to participate in the market. The Government provides this to low income households through its Energy Concession regime and its Outreach program (a new initiative of this Budget).
6. Since the Commonwealth Government announcement to fast-track the reduction of its Solar Rebate payment, the rate of applications being received under the ACT Scheme increased to more than 400 per week (a growth in capacity of about 1 megawatt per week). This compares to an average Scheme growth of 1 megawatt per quarter.
  - a. The Micro Generator category reached its legislated cap of 15MW earlier than originally anticipated and was closed on 31 May 2011.
7. Any scheme that adds even one cent to the cost of electricity can be said to be "partly responsible" for rising electricity costs. In this case the greater share of the cost derives from increasing demand, lack of past maintenance and the need to augment large scale transmissions and distribution systems. When the ACT Micro and Medium Schemes are fully operational (one year following the installation of the last generator) then the full cost of the combined Scheme to ACT households will be no more than \$50 per annum (in line with the pass through approval of the Australian Energy Regulator). At that time the Scheme will comprise less than 3% of the average ACT electricity bill.
8. Quarterly reports are required to be compiled by the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission under the *Utilities Act 2000*. The Directorate separately liaises with ActewAGL Distribution in non-reporting months to monitor connections and capacity. All installations are mapped on a quarterly basis.
  - a. The Government has advised both industry and the general public that customers who had entered into a signed contract and paid a deposit (if called for under that contract) before the closing of the Scheme at midnight on 31 May 2011, are still eligible to participate in the Scheme.
9. The Micro Generator component of the Scheme (15 MW) is fully committed.
10. The only direct cost to Government of the Scheme is staffing. It is estimated that, on average, 1 staff member over the life of the Scheme will be required. In later years this is likely to become a part time workload. If we assume the Scheme runs for 20 years then the cost will be about \$750,000 (based on Department of Treasury average staff cost estimates).
11. Prior to the recent surge in applications, the usual dual inspection process was about 3 weeks from completion of installation and assuming that the installer had already lodged the inspection request. At present, I am advised that inspections under the ActewAGL regime are taking 4-6 weeks.
12. The Office of Regulatory Services which handles consumer complaints reports only 17 complaints about PV panel installation transactions. These relate to the behaviour of salespersons and advertising. ACTPLA has advised that there are no excessive delays associated with their safety inspection regime. Delays of up to 6 weeks have

been reported by ActewAGL Distribution. In the circumstances, these delays are not considered excessive.

13. No. Both parties (ACTPLA and ActewAGL Distribution) have distinctly different roles and jurisdictions. ACTPLA is responsible for electrical safety under the *Utilities Act 2000*. There is no provision for industry (installers) to self-regulate on this aspect of their work. ActewAGL Distribution as a private company has separate obligations to their shareholders and to the operators of the National Electricity Market to ensure the safe and ongoing operation of their primary asset (the distribution grid). The grid is not owned by the Government.
14. I am not aware of any difficulties in accessing information or making complaints about the Scheme's operation. The Directorate responds to all queries, whether received by phone or through the Feed-in tariff email address, within 1 working day of receipt. All electricity retailers operate their own inquiry and response networks. I have not been advised of any difficulties in the operation of those separate systems.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:



Date:

14.6.11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MR SESELJA: to ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: Sustainable Development Directorate, Budget Paper 4, pg 293

In relation to : Solar Roof Lease

1. Please provide details of the solar roof lease program?
2. As it has been mentioned that proponents will have access to the Feed-in Tariff Scheme; please detail how this arrangement will work?
  - a. What premium rate will this type of installation be subject too?
  - b. Will this power count towards the total feed-in tariff scheme capacity cap?

MINISTER CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The leasing of commercial roof space is not an ACT government program. It is a private contractual arrangement between landlords and renewable energy generators.
2. The generator would be eligible for the payment of the Feed-in tariff Premium Price appropriate to its scale. While the micro component of the scheme was officially closed on 31 May 2011, provisions exist for late applications from parties who had already signed contracts and/or paid deposits.
  - a. That is:  
Installations up to 30 kW (Micro Generator) – 45.7 cents  
Installations larger than 30kW but no more than 200kW (Medium Generator)  
– 75% of the Premium Rate (34.27 cents)
  - c. All installations will count towards the cap of their respective Scheme component.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

Date:

17.6.11

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA