



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Climate and Emissions policy

Hearing: 17 November 2025

In relation to: Net Zero Target

Question received: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

- 1) When will the next climate change strategy be finalised?
- 2) What are the barriers to publishing the ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2025-26 before the Annual Report hearings in 2026?
- 3) Has the Government considered bringing forward the net zero target to 2040, as advised by the Climate Change Council?
- 4) What are the barriers to meeting a net zero target by 2040 and what measures will be required to commit to this target?
- 5) With transport being the largest emitter, what steps have you taken to ensure the public transport network encourages mode shift to reduce private car use?

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) Government has recently finalised a period of targeted stakeholder consultation on the new climate change strategy and is planning for broader community consultation in early 2026. All Canberrans will be invited to have their say on the ACT's next phase of climate action. Following community consultation, government will seek to finalise the strategy considering community input and aspirations for climate action. It is anticipated the new strategy will be released in 2026.
- 2) Under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*, the independent entity is required to provide the ACT greenhouse gas inventory report within three months after the end of the reporting period. For a financial year, the reporting period is defined as two

years after the end of that financial year. This means the ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2025-26 is due 30 June 2028.

In practice, however, the ACT greenhouse gas inventory for a financial year is usually completed within six months after the year's end, demonstrating current timeframes for publishing are very efficient.

The inventory for 2025-26 will be finalised and published by December 2026. Given the time required for data collection, analysis, review, and quality assurance, it is not possible that the inventory report can be published before December 2026 in time for Annual Report hearings.

- 3) As noted in the Government response to the independent review of ACT Government action on climate change earlier this year, the Government considered, but did not agree to bring forward the net zero target to 2040.
- 4) Transitioning an economy to net zero emissions by 2045, in a safe and equitable manner, will take time. Climate action is a shared responsibility of Government, community, business and industry. The ACT Government is providing long-term signals to inform and empower decision making, across all stakeholders, to align with the ACT's climate ambitions. The ACT Government will maintain the existing emissions reduction targets to ensure a clear and consistent signal to ACT businesses, industry, community and households.

To bring the target forward to 2040 would present difficulties for both government and the community. To move too quickly on this transition, presents a real risk of both getting things wrong, leading to a need to revisit issues more than once, and leaving those in our community less able to act quickly, behind.

- 5) The ACT Government is investigating all options to reduce transport emissions, including transitioning to zero emission vehicles and mode shift options to public and active transport. Current and future mode shift policies are guided by a variety of strategies, including the Transport Strategy and the Climate Change Strategy. The Transport Strategy (2020) focuses on delivering convenient and connected public transport and high-quality environments for walking and cycling to improve flexibility, reliability and sustainability of travel options for all Canberra residents. The Climate Change Strategy (2019-2025) set a pathway for reducing transport emissions by reducing car use and encouraging a shift to active and public transport.

To support the transition to net zero emissions by 2045 and help prepare for a changing Canberra climate, the ACT Government is developing a new climate change strategy. The new strategy will serve as an overarching framework for 2026–35, setting out clear outcomes, highlighting existing work already underway, and identifying gaps and opportunities to focus future emissions reduction and climate adaptation efforts.

Work to assess how the city's transport network will meet the needs of its growing population and exploring how to integrate transport planning across active and public transport and zero emission vehicles, to support an efficient, connected, decarbonising transport system is ongoing.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several sweeping, interconnected strokes.

Signature:

Date: 28/11/25

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA