

Interpretation of scope: 2025-011, Climate change mitigation-Documents and briefs to ministers

Element of the 213A order	Understanding of intent	Interpretation of scope	Responsible area
a) review of the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy and associated briefs to Ministers	This element seeks to: gather information on the outcome of the review of the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy and subsequent decisions by Government. Relevant excerpts: <i>“...require further transparency to fully understand the outcome of investigations and the decisions that have been made by Government”. (Laura Nuttal MLA, 25 Sep 2025)</i> <i>“...It includes the review of the Environmental Offsets Policy and accompanied briefs. Now that review was undertaken in 2020, as indicated on the tenders register. It was a \$133,000 investigation by Rooftop Social.</i> <i>It is the right time to be talking about environmental offsets. Since I was elected, I have seen countless development projects go ahead with accompanying environmental offsets to make up for the damage that they decide are unavoidable impacts. At the</i>	• Scope includes: ○ Report provided by Rooftop Social ‘<i>Review of the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy</i>’ (August 2023). ○ All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs on the review of the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy.	CED / Environment, Heritage & Parks

same time, the latest State of the Environment report of our former Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, the Close to the edge report, set out the devastating scale of environmental impacts as a result of development and how the flaws in our offset policy mean we are not fully compensating for them.”
(Jo Clay MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

b) analysis of land use change and biodiversity trends in the ACT (Contract PIEP0005637) and associated briefs to Ministers

This element seeks to: gather information and documentation in relation to the findings of the analysis of land use change and biodiversity trends in the ACT
Relevant excerpts:
“...require further transparency to fully understand the outcome of investigations and the decisions that have been made by Government”. (Laura Nuttal MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

“Since I was elected, I have seen countless developments projects go ahead with accompanying environmental offsets to make up for the damage that they decide are unavoidable impacts. At the same time the latest State of the Environment report and the report of our former

- Scope includes:
 - The contract and outputs, which were part of an investigation conducted on the Commissioner’s own initiative (Section 12.1(c) of the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*), and published in *Close to the Edge: An Investigations into the effects of urban expansion on the environment of the ACT* (also available https://envcomm.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/OCSE_Close-to-the-Edge.pdf)
 - A technical report provided by Haizea (the contracted provider) that supports the Investigation Report, which is also available at https://envcomm.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ACTOCSE_Haizea-Analytics-Report-final.pdf.

Commissioner of Sustainability and the Environment

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Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, the Close to the edge report, set out the devastating scale of environmental impacts as a result of development and how the flaws in our offset policy mean we are not fully compensating for them.”
(Jo Clay MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

c) AECOM Air Quality Assessment initiated in 2024 and associated briefs to Ministers	This element seeks to: access a copy of the AECOM Air Quality Assessment report and any ministerial briefs that outline Government decisions relating to the outcomes of the report. Relevant excerpts: <i>“The AECOM Air Quality Assessment has been completed to inform a regulatory impact statement. Canberrans deserve to know what a thorough investigation says about the air that we breathe. While this government consistently claims that our air quality in the ACT is good, we have a really strong suspicion that it is not good enough. Certainly, by the World Health Organisation standards...”</i> (Ms Laura Nutall MLA, 25 September 2025)	• Scope includes: ○ AECOM Urban Air Quality Assessment – Final Report completed on 1 October 2024. ○ All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs on the AECOM Air Quality Assessment.	CED / Environment, Heritage & Parks
d) briefs to Ministers developed since January 2024	This element seeks to: gather information on progress of	• Scope includes:	CED / Climate Change, Energy and Water /

regarding the next Climate Change Strategy	development of the next climate change strategy. Relevant excerpts: <i>“...require further transparency to fully understand the outcome of investigations and the decisions that have been made by Government”.</i> (Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025) <i>“The motion also requests documents that will improve the transparency on what is happening with our Climate Change Strategy. The current one expires this year, and we do not yet have the next one. I am worried about the Minister’s sense of urgency on this. She has had 10 months in the portfolio and she has not yet undertaken any public work to replace it...”</i> (Jo Clay MLA, 25 Sep 2025)	○ Briefs since January 2024 to the current Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, the previous Minister for Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction and the previous Minister for Climate Action. ○ Information on consideration or development of the next / new climate change strategy. ● Scope does not include broader topics or considerations that may or may not be part of the next climate change strategy unless a new or next climate change strategy is specifically referenced. ● All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs are within scope. ● Scope includes briefs to the Minister in relation to advice developed by the ACT Climate Change Council, where the briefs relate to the next Climate Change Strategy.	Climate Change and Energy Policy CMTEDD
e) investigations into the development and implementation of the ACT's Climate Adaptation for Nature Framework (Contract EP2222674)	This element seeks to: Provide additional information associated with the ACT's Climate Adaptation for Nature Framework. Relevant excerpts: <i>“...I have asked the Minister questions about the next steps on a number of agricultural projects that were in train....”</i> <i>“...all of these projects appear to have stalled. I have asked questions and I have asked for</i>	● Documents and reports that resulted from the delivery of the contract (EP2222674) between CSIRO - Enabling Adaptation Pathways and Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.	CED / Environment, Heritage & Parks

many of these documents to be tabled previously; unfortunately, that has happened yet". (Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

f) investigations into Biodiversity Financing Mechanisms for the ACT (Contract PIEP0004125) and associated briefs to Ministers

This element seeks to: access additional information associated with the Biodiversity Financing Mechanisms for the ACT.

Relevant excerpts:

"...I have asked the Minister questions about the next steps on a number of agricultural projects that were in train...."
(Laura Nutall MLA)

"...all of these projects appear to have stalled. I have asked questions and I have asked for many of these documents to be tabled previously; unfortunately that has not happened yet". (Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

• Scope includes:

- Biodiversity Financing Mechanisms for the ACT – Final Report (July 2024) prepared by UTS.
- Options Paper: Financial incentives for biodiversity (27 May 2024)
- All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs relating to the investigation into Biodiversity Financing Mechanisms for the ACT and proposed next steps since July 2024.

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g) ACT Food Hub Feasibility Study (Contract PIEP0006734) and associated briefs to Ministers

This element seeks to: gather information on the progress and decisions made relating to the investigations into our local food supply chains funded initiative in the local food strategy.

Relevant excerpts:

"...I have asked the Minister questions about the next steps on a number of agricultural projects that were in train..."

• Scope includes:

- The 'ACT Food Hub Feasibility Study' by SGS Economics & Planning dated 26 June 2025
- All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs relating to the ACT Food Hub Feasibility Study.

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These include... investigations into our local food supply chains, the first funded initiative in the local food strategy...”

(Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

“... all of these projects appear to have stalled. I have asked questions and I have asked for many of these documents to be tabled previously; unfortunately that has not happened yet”

(Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

h) investigations into agriculture and food in the ACT (Contract PIEP0002390) and associated Ministerial briefs

This element seeks to: gather information on the progress and decisions made relating to the investigation into Agriculture and Food in the ACT.

Relevant excerpts:

“...I have asked the Minister questions about the next steps on a number of agricultural projects that were in train....”

(Laura Nutall MLA)

“... all of these projects appear to have stalled. I have asked questions and I have asked for many of these documents to be tabled previously; unfortunately that has not happened yet”

- Scope includes:

- The report prepared by Natural Capital Economics under contract PIEP0002390 dated February 2025.
- All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs since February 2025 that relate to the outcome of the consultant’s report and any decisions on next steps.

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(Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025)				
i)	briefs to Ministers and other documents containing advice and cost estimates about the reconstruction of Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfields Huts	This element seeks to: access additional information on the advice and cost estimates of reconstruction of Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfields Huts. Relevant excerpts: <i>“...we believe the Government should be accountable to decisions taken previously where a policy or position has changed that can be ok where there is full transparency and accountability behind the decision-making. There is still discomfort amongst constituents around the reasons for the changed decision and missing pieces of information that should have informed that decision”</i> (Laura Nutall MLA)	• Scope includes: ○ All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs relating to reconstruction of Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfields Huts. ○ Any documents containing advice and/or cost estimates relating to the concept of the reconstruction of Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfields Huts. ○ ACT Heritage Council’s advice relating the post-fire heritage values of Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfields Huts.	CED / Environment, Heritage & Parks
j)	briefs to Ministers from the Tenth and Eleventh Assemblies regarding the Re-naturalisation of Sullivans Creek Options Paper and documents showing cost estimates for the projects;	This element seeks to: access additional information on the Re-naturalisation of Sullivans Creek Options Paper. Relevant excerpts: <i>“...I have asked the Minister questions about the next steps on a number of agricultural projects that were in train....”</i> (Laura Nutall MLA) <i>“... all of these projects appear to have stalled. I have asked</i>	• Scope includes: ○ the ‘Sullivans Creek Re-Naturalisation Options Report’ and documents that contain cost estimates relating the re-naturalisation of Sullivans Creek Options Paper. ○ All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs since 3 November 2020 relating to the re-naturalisation of Sullivans Creek. The signed and annotated versions of briefs to be provided where they are available.	CED / Environment, Heritage & Parks

questions and I have asked for many of these documents to be tabled previously; unfortunately that has not happened yet”.

(Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

k) briefs to Ministers related to funding for Stage 2 and planning for future stages of the Healthy Waterways Program

This element seeks to ascertain what information on planning for Stage 2 of ACT Healthy Waterways has been provided to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water.

Relevant excerpts:

“...disappointing to see the Healthy Waterways program not topped up with funding this budget and that is before stage 2 is even complete.

Reconnecting the old creek line at Tuggeranong Homestead in Richardson is still listed on the government’s website as part of stage 2 but the Minister has confirmed that there is no funding to complete that project”. (Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

- All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs that relate to planning or investment in the Healthy Waterways program separately from, and subsequent to, the ACT Government’s matching funding to the Australian Government’s investment in Stage 1 of the program. The signed and annotated versions of briefs to be provided where they are available.
- This will include infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure projects such as research.

l) background analysis and briefs to Ministers since June 2024 relating to the review of Canberra City

This element seeks to:

Provide additional information on the review of the Canberra City Farm.

Relevant excerpts:

- Scope includes:
 - All ministerial briefs (full and caveat), incoming government briefs and Question Time briefs since June 2024 relating to the review of Canberra City Farm, the licence/lease, and the "listening exercise".

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Farm, the lease for the site they occupy and the related "listening exercise", including documents relating to identifying the engagement of stakeholders

"...I have asked the Minister questions about the next steps on a number of agricultural projects that were in train...."

(Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

"... all of these projects appear to have stalled. I have asked questions and I have asked for many of these documents to be tabled previously; unfortunately that has not happened yet".

(Laura Nutall MLA, 25 Sep 2025)

- Formal briefs to City and Environment Directorate executives on the Canberra City Farm or licencing arrangements.