



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

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MINISTERIAL BRIEF

To: Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Tracking No.: 17/15674

Rec'd Minister's Office 30 JUN 2017

From: Director-General
A/Executive Director, Environment - signed

Subject: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Environmental Performance Review Report

Critical Date: 30 June 2017

Critical Reason: The Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy has requested a response by this date to allow for the timely collation of all state/territory data.

Purpose

To seek your agreement to the ACT's contribution to Australia's Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Environmental Performance Review (the Review).

Recommendations

That you:

1. **Note** the information in this brief and the proposed ACT submission to the Review (Attachment A);

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

2. **Agree** to the ACT submission to the Review being forwarded to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy.

Signed / Not Signed / Please Discuss
Required

Mick Gentleman MLA  2.17.17

Minister's Office Feedback

Background

1. The OECD will conduct its third mandatory Review of Australia from 2017 to 2019. The Review is a comprehensive, multi-year process that includes a Review Mission visit to Australia.
2. The Review is an independent, fact-based assessment of Australia's environmental performance that will contain targeted recommendations to encourage further reforms from a whole-of-Government perspective.
3. As an OECD member, Australia is required to participate in this process every ten years, with previous reviews published in 1998 and 2007. State and territory engagement and input to the Review process is key to its successful completion. As such, the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy (the Department) intends to engage with state and territory governments during all stages of the Review.
4. The Review will contain three compulsory chapters: key environmental trends, environmental governance and management, and green growth. It will also include two chapters on topics chosen by Australia for in-depth analysis: chemicals management and threatened species.

Issues

5. The Department is working with states and territories to prepare responses to the OECD's questionnaire. Responses to the questionnaire are complex and cut across a number of ACT Government agencies. EPSDD, as the directorate responsible for the environment, has coordinated a whole-of-government response to the questionnaire for the ACT. This approach will assist in meeting the OECD's expectation of comprehensive, detailed and complete information in response to the questionnaire.
6. At this early stage the Review seeks to gather information that is already in the public realm to be used for further analysis. Therefore, much of the information contained in the ACT's submission provides a brief introduction to the policy position and an internet reference where further information can be gained.
7. States and territories will have further opportunities to engage with the OECD regarding input to the Review over the coming months.
8. States and territories will be invited to meet with the OECD Review Mission and to participate in the high level discussion, comment and provide briefings on the draft Report, attend the peer review meeting in Paris and take part in the workshop at the launch to discuss implementation of the Review's recommendations.

Financial Implications

9. Nil.

Consultation

Internal

10. Due to the broad environmental information requested in the questionnaire, extensive consultation was invited from across EPSDD, including Environment Protection Policy, Nature Conservation Policy, Sustainability and Climate Change, Catchment Management and Water Policy, and Strategic Planning.

Cross-Directorate

11. As with internal consultation, and to accommodate a whole-of-government response, inputs were invited from ACT NOWaste (TCCS), Active Travel and Asset Strategy (TCCS), Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Health Protection Services (Health), Access Canberra (CMTEDD), Economic Development (CMTEDD) and Treasury (CMTEDD).

Benefits/Sensitivities

12. The Department has identified a number of risks and sensitivities associated with the Review, including that the OECD may recommend policy options that various Australian governments have explicitly ruled out or that the Australian community is not ready to consider.

Media Implications

13. The Department, in consultation with states and territories, will be developing, where appropriate, communications material for the Review.

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