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OECD Environmental Performance Review - ACT

QUESTIONNAIRE: PART ONE

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SECTION 1 – KEY ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS AND POLICY MEASURES

1.1 Overview of key environmental trends and policy measures

a. Air emissions and pollution	
<p>Respondents</p> <p><i>The following Commonwealth Government agencies have indicated they would like to respond to this section of the questionnaire, however if you are a <u>state or territory government</u>, or think you have <u>relevant information</u>, please consider providing us with input.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Department of the Environment and Energy (Domestic Emissions Reduction Division; International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division; Environment Standards Division; Environmental Standards Division) 2. Department of Industry, Innovation and Science 3. Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development 	
<p>Key strategies, objectives and targets</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main strategic documents, both national and international, that set policy objectives. Indicate the qualitative and quantitative objectives, with time frames, including whether they are domestic objectives or international commitments.</p> <p>The Air Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) is a statutory instrument under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i> (the Act) that has the objectives of ensuring air quality in the ACT at least meets national standards for ambient air and to minimise environmental harm from local emissions of air pollutants consistent with the requirements and objects of the Act.</p> <p>https://www.accessc Canberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/1320/related/1#!tabs-2</p>
<p>Progress towards objectives/targets</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate progress made towards objectives/targets since 2005 and distance from reaching those objectives/targets, using indicators as appropriate.</p> <p>The annual ACT Air Quality Reports provide a quantitative measure against the implementation of the EPP and the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality (AAQ NEPM).</p> <p>https://www.accessc Canberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/1320/related/1#!tabs-2</p>

	<p>The ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment’s (CSE) 2015 State of the Environment Report found that the ACT has good ambient air quality, with the results Air Quality Reports showing excellent results and continued compliance with AAQ NEPM standards, however motor vehicles continue to be the main source of emissions in the ACT, with pollution from wood smoke in winter being the major source of exceedances of particulate matter standards. As a result, the ACT Government conducts a range of programs and campaigns to reduce the number of wood heaters and to educate on how to best use wood heaters. Additionally, the Air Quality Index website was launched by ACT Health in late 2014 to provide access to real-time air quality data and allow residents to better understand how air quality may affect them.</p> <p>http://reports.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2015/the-report/index.html</p>
<p>Drivers</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main factors that have influenced trends since 2005 and progress in achieving targets with reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socio-economic factors; and • key policy measures. <p>The ACT along with Victoria have agreed to a stricter reporting standard for particulate matter under the AAQ NEPM of 20 µg/m³ (25µg/m³ is the current standard) which reflect World Health Organization guidelines and national Environmental Health Standing Committee recommendations. In light of this it has been agreed that NSW and Victoria will lead a review of the particulate matter reporting standard in 2018 after completion of the current review of World Health Organization guidelines.</p> <p>The emissions standards mandated by AS 4013 and AS 4012 are in force through the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i> for the sale of wood heaters in the ACT and for efficiency standards respectively.</p> <p>The ACT is at the forefront nationally in best practice regulation of in-service heaters through its education and regulatory framework which included licensing of firewood merchants, regulatory compliance framework, and initiatives including the ‘Wood Heater Replacement Program’ and ‘Burn Right Tonight’ and ‘Don’t Burn Tonight’ public education campaigns.</p>

<p>Projections</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate projections, mid-term (e.g. to 2025) and long-term (e.g. to 2050), if available.</p> <p>The CSE 2015 State of the Environment Report found that the ACT’s statutory, planning and policy frameworks are effective in managing air quality in the ACT. This is demonstrated by continuing improvements in reported air quality data.</p> <p>http://reports.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2015/the-report/4-air/4-3-indicators/index.html</p> <p>http://reports.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2015/the-report/4-air/4-4-response/index.html</p> <p>Data from the 2015 ACT Air Quality Report indicated that since the introduction of a wood heater replacement program in 2004 the annual average for particulate matter had fallen from 17 to 10 µg/m³, a significant improvement in air quality, and well under the national standard of 25 µg/m³. The continuation of this program is likely to result in further reductions in particulate matter in the ACT air shed.</p> <p>http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/public-health/act-air-quality-monitoring</p>
<p>Legislations and regulatory framework</p>	<p>Q. Please briefly describe the key pieces of legislation and the regulatory framework (e.g. environmental standards, permitting/licensing systems) for air pollution management. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p> <p>The ACT continues to implement the review program of all environment protection policies, including the Air Environment Protection Policy, made under the Act. These policies help explain and apply provisions of the Act and regulations. The review of these policies, which includes consultation with the community, industry and relevant representative organisations, will ensure the ACT continues to have policies that are up-to-date and reflect community expectations. A review of the Air Environment Protection Policy is ongoing at the time of preparing this report.</p> <p>https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/1320/#!tabs-2</p> <p>Other relevant instruments under the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Environment Protection Regulation, particularly Part 2 Emissions into the Air http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/sl/2005-38/current/pdf/2005-38.pdf • the Environment Protection (ACT Firewood) Code of Practice 1999 http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/1999-114/current/pdf/1999-114.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Draft Separation Distance Guidelines http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/657211/EPA-Separation-Distance-Guidelines-for-Air-Emissions_ACCESS.pdf <p>The ACT is implementing the AAQ NEPM, which was updated in 2016. http://www.nepc.gov.au/nepms/ambient-air-quality</p> <p>The <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010</i> has measures that are complementary to the Act in addressing air emissions and pollution http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2010-41/current/pdf/2010-41.pdf</p>
<p>Economic instruments</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate and briefly describe economic instruments used for air pollution management (e.g. emission taxes, pollution charges, emission trading), and/or provide any relevant document and study assessing effectiveness and efficiency of those instruments. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p> <p>Part 6 of the Act provides for the use of economic measures such as bubble licenses and tradeable permits as a means of achieving the objects of the Act. Section 53 of the Act provides for the payment of fees for the issuing of an environmental authorisation. These fees are set under the Environment Protection (Fees) Determination 2016. Section 165 of the Act provides the minister with the ability to determine fees under the Act.</p> <p>http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/1997-92/current/pdf/1997-92.pdf http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2016-177/current/pdf/2016-177.pdf</p>
<p>Sources</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main sources for the above information (websites, statistics, legislation, reports, etc.).</p> <p>Referenced above.</p>

b. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Respondents

The following Commonwealth Government agencies have indicated they would like to respond to this section of the questionnaire, however if you are a state or territory government, or think you have relevant information, please consider providing us with input.

1. Department of the Environment and Energy (Domestic Emissions Reduction Division; International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division; Energy Division; Environment Standards Division)
2. Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
3. Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
4. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Key strategies, objectives and targets

Q. Please indicate GHG emissions quantitative objectives, with time frame, specifying whether they are domestic objectives or international commitments.

The ACT Government has a target of achieving carbon neutrality of government operations in a cost effective manner by 2020. The Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) Framework was established to achieve this target.

Implementation of the CNG Framework commenced in late 2012 focussing on identification and delivery of energy savings at government sites. Key milestones completed include establishment of a whole-of-Government Enterprise Sustainability Platform capturing a range of energy consumption and emission data; Directorate Resource Management Plans; establishment of three new technical advice and support positions (Energy Project Officers in July 2013 and Actsmart Government Assessor in 2012) and the Carbon Neutral Government Fund. In 2016 ACT Government agencies introduced Energy Reduction Targets/Carbon Budgets to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in their operations. Implementation of the CNG Framework is overseen by the Carbon Neutral Government Implementation Committee, which reports to the ACT Public Service Strategic Board.

www.environment.act.gov.au/cc/what-government-is-doing/act-government-operations

In 2010 the ACT set the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*, which legislates three key targets for the ACT:

- Zero net emissions by 2050,
- 40% emission reduction on 1990 levels by 2020, and
- peaking per capita emissions by 2013.

	<p>The ACT also has a legislated target for 100% renewable energy (electricity) by 2020.</p> <p>The Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory calls for zero net emissions by 2050 <i>at the latest</i>.</p>
<p>Progress towards objectives/targets</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate progress made towards objectives/targets since 2005 and distance from reaching those objectives/targets, using indicators as appropriate.</p> <p>The ACT achieved the peaking per capita emissions, confirmed in the 2014-15 inventory report. ACT per capita emission peaked in 2006 at around 12 tonnes per person. In 2013 it was 10.45, with the latest inventory for 2015-16 stating 10.27 tonnes per person.</p> <p>The ACT is on track to achieve the 100% RET, with all required mega watts of renewable generation contracted for. In 2015-16 the ACT was 21% renewable, and estimated to be over 35% by end of 2016-17. This is the primary mechanism to achieving the 40% emissions reduction on 1990 levels. Since 2010 the ACT has reduced its emission by around 11%, but is still currently over the 1990 levels. Emissions are set to drastically reduce in the next 12 months as the percentage of renewables exponentially increases to 100% by 2020.</p>
<p>Drivers</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main factors that have influenced trends since 2005 and progress in achieving targets with reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socio-economic factors; and • key policy measures. <p>Population growth has been a key driver in trends for increased use of energy and production of waste. However, emissions have decoupled from population growth in recent years, as demonstrated in the peaking per capita emissions target.</p> <p>The ACT's investment in and contracting of renewable electricity through the reverse auction feed-in tariff policy has been the largest influence in the reduction of emissions. Additionally the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme has assisted in decoupling economic and population growth with emissions, as households and business become more energy efficient.</p>

<p>Impact of climate change</p>	<p>Q. Please provide information about the current and projected impacts of climate change in Australia, including on physical conditions (e.g. temperature increases, changes in rainfall and snowfall, glacier melting), the economy and society.</p> <p>The ACT and surrounding region is projected to experience longer, hotter summers and increased frequency and severity of storm events. This increases the level of threat from bushfires, heatwaves and violent storms to lives, property, economic activities and the natural environment.</p>
<p>Projections</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate projections, mid-term (e.g. to 2025) and long-term (e.g. to 2050), if available.</p> <p>The NSW and ACT Regional Climate Modelling project (NARClIM) indicates that the ACT is projected to continue to warm during the near future (2020-2039) and far future (2060-2079), compared to recent years (1990-2009). The warming is projected to be on average about 0.7 °C in the near future, increasing to about 2 °C in the far future. The number of hot days is projected to increase, with fewer colder nights. The warming trend projected for the ACT is large compared to natural variability in temperature and is similar to the rate of warming projected for NSW.</p>
<p>Legislations and regulatory framework</p>	<p>Q. Please briefly describe the key pieces of legislation and the regulatory framework for mitigating GHG emissions. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p> <p>In 2010 the ACT set the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010</i>, which legislates three key targets for the ACT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero net emissions by 2050, - 40% emission reduction on 1990 levels by 2020, and - peaking per capita emissions by 2013. <p>The ACT also has a legislated target for 100% renewable energy (electricity) by 2020. The Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory calls for zero net emissions by 2050 <i>at the latest</i>.</p>

<p>Economic instruments</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate and briefly describe economic instruments used for mitigating GHG emissions (e.g. carbon tax, vehicle taxes, GHG emission trading), and/or provide any relevant document and study assessing effectiveness and efficiency of those instruments. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p> <p>The ACT has conducted a series of reverse auctions to award feed-in tariff entitlements for large-scale wind and solar farms. Independent reviews of the auctions have consistently found that the auctions secured renewable energy generation at exceptional value-for-money.</p> <p>http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/cleaner-energy</p>
<p>Sectoral Measures</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main regulatory and economic measures in place to mitigate GHG emissions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>energy production and use</u> (renewable energy sources and energy efficiency), such as energy efficiency standards, energy labelling, renewable tradable certificates and subsidies; <p>The ACT Government has set a target of securing 100% of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2020. 75% of this target has been secured through a series of reverse auctions for large-scale wind and solar. The remainder of the target will be achieved through voluntary renewable energy ('GreenPower') purchases, roof-top solar, and the ACT's share of the national target.</p> <p>http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/cleaner-energy/renewable-energy-target,-legislation-and-reporting</p> <p>The Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) was established under the <i>Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012</i> and began on 1 January 2013. The Act sets a Territorywide energy savings target and obligates ACT electricity retailers to meet an individual Retailer Energy Savings Obligation by undertaking activities in households or small-to-medium enterprises.</p> <p>Since the EEIS commenced on 1 January 2013, over 76,000 households have participated in the Scheme, including over 19,000 priority low income households. Over 1,100,000 energy saving items have been installed, saving over 690,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.</p> <p>An independent review of the EEIS in 2014 concluded there was high participant satisfaction and significant overall benefits to continuing the EEIS. An Amendment Bill to extend the EEIS to 2020 was passed on 4 August 2015.</p>

	<p>The 2015 Regulatory Impact Statement provides a summary of the review and detailed modelling for the scheme extension.</p> <p>http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/735990/Attachment-C-Regulatory-Impact-Satement-EEIS-Parameters-to-2020-FINAL.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>transport</u>, such as vehicle standards, biofuel obligations, <u>fuel prices and taxes</u>, road pricing, congestion charges; - <u>agriculture, forestry and fishery</u>; <p>And/or provide any relevant document and study assessing effectiveness and efficiency of those measures. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p>
<p>Sources</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main sources for the above information (websites, statistics, legislation, reports, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010.</i> - www.environment.act.gov.au/cc - http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/smarter-use-of-energy/energy_efficiency_improvement_scheme_eeis

c. Waste management

Respondents

The following Commonwealth Government agencies have indicated they would like to respond to this section of the questionnaire, however, if you are a state or territory government, or think you have relevant information, please consider providing us with input.

1. Department of the Environment and Energy (Domestic Emissions Reduction Division; International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division; Environment Standards Division)
2. Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Key strategies, objectives and targets

Q. Please indicate the main strategic documents, both national and international, that set policy objectives. Indicate the qualitative and quantitative objectives, with time frames, including whether they are domestic objectives or international commitments.

The ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011-2025 sets out the Territory’s waste objectives and targets to progress the policy goal of leading innovation to achieve full resource recovery and carbon neutral waste sector. The full strategy can be found at:

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/576916/ACT-Waste-Strategy-Policy_access.pdf

More detail about the ACT’s waste policy and programs can be found at:

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/waste>

Progress towards objectives/targets

Q. Please indicate progress made towards targets since 2005 and distance to target, using indicators as appropriate.

Since 2005 the ACT has generally recovered over 70% of all waste generated and has captured landfill gas to generate renewable energy.

The ACT reports its performance publicly in annual reports.

http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/about-us/annual_report

<p>Drivers</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main factors that have influenced trends since 2005 and progress in achieving targets with reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socio-economic factors; and • key policy measures.
<p>Projections</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate projections, mid-term (e.g. to 2025) and long-term (e.g. to 2050), if available.</p>
<p>Legislations and regulatory framework</p>	<p>Q. Please briefly describe the key pieces of legislation and the regulatory framework (e.g. environmental standards, permitting/licensing systems) for waste management. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p> <p>Key ACT regulations for the waste sector include the <i>Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016</i> and the <i>Environmental Protection Act 2007</i>.</p> <p>http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2016-51/default.asp</p> <p>http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/1997-92/default.asp</p>
<p>Economic instruments</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate and briefly describe economic instruments used for managing waste (e.g. waste collection charges, landfill taxes), and/or provide any relevant document and study assessing effectiveness and efficiency of those instruments. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p> <p>The ACT Government manages the only putrescible waste landfill and sets the fees and charges at this facility. The price of landfill determines the relative cost effectiveness of recycling facilities.</p> <p>The ACT has committed to introducing a container deposit scheme in 2018 that will put a price (10 cents) on the return of eligible drink containers for recycling.</p>
<p>Sources</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main sources for the above information (websites, statistics, legislation, reports, etc.).</p> <p>Referenced above.</p>

d. Resource efficiency/material flows

[Resource efficiency includes waste reduction and recycling, and improving the sustainability of natural resource development. Material flows describe the flow of materials and energy through the economy, and includes consumption, exports, accumulation and waste. The OECD look at material flows to determine whether the flow of materials is sustainable in terms of the environmental burden it creates.]

Respondents

The following Commonwealth Government agencies have indicated they would like to respond to this section of the questionnaire, however if you are a state or territory government, or think you have relevant information, please consider providing us with input.

1. Department of the Environment and Energy (Energy Division; Environment Standards Division)
2. Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Key strategies, objectives and targets

Q. Please indicate the main strategic documents, both national and international, that set policy objectives. Indicate the qualitative and quantitative objectives, with time frames, including whether they are domestic objectives or international commitments.

The ACT is seeking to grow the circular economy by maximising the amount of waste recovered for beneficial reuse in the wider economy. This is done via a number of regulatory interventions and programs including – curb side recycling services, extensive education programs including the ACTSmart programs that facilitate businesses recycling, supporting a vibrant resource recovery sector underpinned by material recovery facilities for co-mingled recyclables and construction and demolition waste, introducing and/or supporting product stewardship schemes for e-waste (2011), paint (2017) and beverage containers (2018).

<http://www.actsmart.act.gov.au/>

Progress towards objectives/targets

Q. Please indicate progress made towards objectives/targets since 2005 and distance from reaching those objectives/targets, using indicators as appropriate.

As for waste section above.

Drivers

Q. Please indicate the main factors that have influenced trends since 2005 and progress in achieving targets with reference to:

- socio-economic factors; and
- key policy measures.

<p>Projections</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate projections, mid-term (e.g. to 2020) and long-term (e.g. to 2050), if available.</p>
<p>Legislations and regulatory framework</p>	<p>Q. Please briefly describe the key pieces of legislation and the regulatory framework (e.g. environmental standards, permitting/licensing systems) for improving resource efficiency and material productivity. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p>
<p>Economic instruments</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate and briefly describe economic instruments used for improving resource efficiency and material productivity (e.g. taxes on extraction of raw materials), and/or provide any relevant document and study assessing effectiveness and efficiency of those instruments. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p>
<p>Sources</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main sources for the above information (websites, statistics, legislation, reports, etc.).</p>

e. Water management

Respondents

The following Commonwealth Government agencies have indicated they would like to respond to this section of the questionnaire, however if you are a state or territory government, or think you have relevant information, please consider providing us with input.

1. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
2. Department of the Environment and Energy (Policy, Analysis and Implementation Division; Environment Standards Division)
3. Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
4. Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Key strategies, objectives and targets

Q. Please indicate the main strategic documents, both national and international, that set policy objectives. Indicate the qualitative and quantitative objectives, with time frames, including whether they are domestic objectives or international commitments.

The ACT is a signatory the National Water Initiative with all other Australian jurisdictions (2004) and has been subsequently assessed on performance.

The ACT is a signatory to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement (2007) and a number of related Basin reform agreements (2008 and 2013).

The ACT Water Strategy 2014-44: Striking the Balance (ACT Water Strategy) details the Government’s vision for water management in the ACT over the next 30 years: It has the following outcomes:

1. Healthy catchments and waterbodies
2. A sustainable water supply used efficiently
3. A community that values and enjoys clean, healthy catchments and waterways.

The ACT Water Strategy provides long term strategic guidance to management the Territory’s water resources. It as an implementation plan and is to be evaluated over time.

ACT Water Strategy: http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water-strategies-and-plans/act_water_strategy

<p>Progress towards objectives/targets</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate progress made towards objectives/targets since 2005 and distance from reaching those objectives/targets, using indicators as appropriate.</p> <p>Implementation of the current ACT Water Strategy 2014-44: Striking the Balance, commenced in 2014, therefore measures from 2005 cannot be made against this strategy, however, the previous ACT Water Strategy 'Think Water Act Water' (TAWW) progressed water reform in the ACT from 2004 to 2014 and an evaluation was undertaken.</p> <p>TAWW sets out six objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a long term reliable source of water for the ACT and region through increased storage and access to new water supplies and increasing wastewater reuse from 5 per cent to 20 per cent by 2013; • Increase the efficiency of water usage by reducing per capita use of mains (drinking supply) water by 12 per cent by 2013, and 25 per cent by 2023; • Promote development and integration of an integrated regional approach to ACT/NSW cross border water supply and management; • Protect the water quality in ACT rivers lakes and aquifers to maintain and enhance environmental amenity recreational and designated use values and to protect the health of people in the ACT and down river by ensuring the level of nutrients and sediments entering ACT waterways is no greater than from a well-managed rural landscape; • Facilitate the incorporation of water sensitive urban design principles into urban commercial and industrial development including by reducing the intensity and volume of urban stormwater flows to pre-development equivalents; and • Promote and provide for community involvement and partnership in management of the ACT Water resources Strategy. <p>A 2012 evaluation outlined the achievements towards meeting the strategy's six objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of the water use targets; • development of expanded storage capacity with the enlarged Cotter Dam due for completion in late 2012; • expanded capacity to draw water from the Murrumbidgee River and transfer it to Googong Dam; • expanded water treatment capacity at Mount Stromlo; • implementation of agreements between the ACT, NSW and Commonwealth on cross-border water supply and management; • transfer of Googong Dam to the ACT under a 150 year lease; • ratification of a Cap on water extractions under the Murray Darling Basin Agreement with a base of 40GL and provision for growth at 75 per cent of the 2006-07 population base;
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- negotiations being underway on water trading between NSW and the ACT to facilitate the transfer of water purchased on the open market;
- implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) rules covering all new development and some extensions to existing dwellings;
- implementation of a range of water efficiency programs in consultation with the community;
- review of the environmental flow guidelines; and
- ongoing development of a catchment management framework to be applied to water supply, rural and urban catchments across the Territory.

An evaluation of water savings by the Think Water Act Water program by the University of Technology Sydney found that all of the Think Water, Act Water programs except the GardenSmart program produced measurable and statistically significant reductions in average household water consumption. In addition, hot water savings associated with the WaterSmart Homes program generated concomitant (statistically significant) reductions in consumption on both major electricity tariffs (energy and off peak). Evaluation results as follows:

Water savings

- WaterSmart Homes 25.8 ± 3.6 kL/hh/year
- Rainwater Tanks Rebate 16.7 ± 6.0 kL/hh/year
- GardenSmart -0.4 ± 4.0 kL/hh/year (Not statistically significant)
- ToiletSmart 31.2 ± 3.3 kL/hh/year

Electricity savings

- WaterSmart Homes off peak tariff 358 ± 73 kWh/hh/y
- WaterSmart Homes energy tariff 449 ± 120 kWh/hh/y

Following the 2003 fires and the end of the Millennium Drought, the ACT changed its water management approach from temporary water restrictions to permanent water conservation measures. Since 2010, water consumption across the ACT and Queanbeyan has been guided by permanent water conservation measures. These measures ensure that, even though the ACT no longer applies water restrictions, sensible and a conservative approach is applied to water use as set by the Government and the water utility, Icon Water. Prior to water conservation measures, Canberra's annual water consumption averaged between 60-65 GL; since the water conservation measures have been put in place, overall water consumption figures has dropped to about 46 to 48 GL representing a 39% saving in per capita demand relative to 1993-2002 levels. Additionally, during the 2002 to 2009 Millennium Drought, the ACT Government implemented a program of measures to use water more efficiently that would reduce the demand for potable water such as stormwater harvesting for irrigation of urban green space, and offering subsidised rainwater tanks to landowners. Water sensitive urban design framework and code was also introduced.

<p>Drivers</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate the main factors that have influenced trends since 2005 and progress in achieving targets with reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socio-economic factors; and • key policy measures. <p>The Millennium Drought has dominated ACT water management policy and social behavior change since 2005. The Millennium Drought saw low rainfall and low inflows into reservoirs resulting in record low levels of drinking water for the residence of the ACT. The water scarcity and lack of water security initially enacted water restrictions across the territory but then drove policy development towards a permanent water conservation measures approach, which is still in place today. The Millennium Drought coupled with the increasing effects of climate change has also raised environmental awareness, education and public participation. The ACT community as a whole is now more aware and sensitive to water related issues, especially water efficiency. This is demonstrated by the clear adoption of change practices by the community in the way water is used and managed within communities. For example, the consumption of water in the ACT reduced 39% as a result of the Millennium Drought, but since the end of the drought the consumption of water has not increase. This shows the community has changed behavioural and socio-economic practices permanently to adapt to a changing climate.</p> <p>The ACT has an independent price regulator for water and sewerage services and has implemented full cost recovery in its pricing methodology. Pricing has had an impact on water use especially for the large water users.</p> <p>The ACT established the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group which is a statutory group involving local governments surrounding the ACT, Icon Water, ACT Government agencies, Commonwealth and NSW Governments, and community representation.</p> <p>The ACT is implementing an integrated monitoring program for water flows and water quality.</p> <p>Note that the water utility, Icon Water, is involved in water planning and management with the ACT Government. The utility considers population projections, climate variability and climate change in its water planning.</p> <p>The implementation of the Basin Plan in 2012 has resulted in the limitation of the ACT’s water use through a sustainable diversion limit for surface water and groundwater as wells a number of other requirements to meet Basin environmental objectives</p>
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Projections	<p>Q. Please indicate projections, mid-term (e.g. to 2025) and long-term (e.g. to 2050), if available.</p> <p>Under the current ACT Water Strategy: Striking the Balance, new targets and outcomes are now in place out to 2044 with four year implementation plans to accompany the strategy. The 18 actions in the strategy aim to improve the following mid and long term outcomes:</p> <p>OUTCOME 1: Healthy catchments and waterbodies</p> <p>Strategy 1: Achieve integrated catchment management across the ACT and region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1: Strengthen coordination and collaboration for catchment management across the ACT and region • Action 2: Enhance knowledge and spatial planning for water and catchment management • Action 3: Integrate water cycle management and green infrastructure into the planning and design of urban environments • Action 4: Improve water monitoring and analysis across the ACT and region. <p>Strategy 2: Protect and restore aquatic ecosystems in urban and non-urban areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 5: Improve water quality and ecosystem health in the ACT and region’s rivers, lakes, aquifers, ponds and wetlands • Action 6: Ensure appropriate management (volume, timing, and quality) of environmental flows • Action 7: Strengthen compliance and enforcement for water resource management <p>Strategy 3: Manage stormwater and flooding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 8: Manage stormwater infrastructure sustainably • Action 9: Improve planning, monitoring and compliance for stormwater management • Action 10: Improve planning, information and regulation for flood management <p>OUTCOME 2: A sustainable water supply used efficiently</p> <p>Strategy 4: Secure long term water supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 11: Plan for long term water security • Action 12: Strengthen water trading arrangements • Action 13: Investigate the benefits and costs of more diverse water supply options <p>Strategy 5: Manage and promote a sustainable use of water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 14: Improve and monitor provision of water services
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 15: Encourage water users to conserve and use water wisely <p>OUTCOME 3: A community that values and enjoys clean, healthy catchments and waterways</p> <p>Strategy 6: Provide clean and safe water for the ACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 16: Improve management of rivers, lakes and public space to promote recreational use and reduce risks to public health • Strategy 7: Engage the community on understanding and contributing to a more sustainable city. • Action 17: Promote community involvement in management of ACT water resources • Action 18: Ensure that indigenous and other cultural values are recognised in managing water planning and use. <p>As mentioned, future water use will be limited by the net sustainable diversion limits set under the Basin Plan (2012). These limits are set for at least 10 years (2026 under the Basin Plan).</p>
<p>Legislations and regulatory framework</p>	<p>Q. Please briefly describe the key pieces of legislation and the regulatory framework (e.g. environmental standards, permitting/licensing systems) for water management (water quantity, quality and sanitation). Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p> <p>The ACT’s Water Resource Act 2007 (the WR Act) is the overarching governing legislation that provides a framework for the sustainable management of the Territory’s water resources. All water use of the Territory’s water bodies including streams, dams or groundwater is controlled by the WR Act. The WR Act and its regulations contain arrangements for the management of the Territory’s water resources. They identify, for each water management area in the ACT, how much water is required to maintain river systems and associated ecosystems and how much is available to issue entitlements for off-stream use. Under the WR Act it is a requirement to hold a Water Access Entitlement before a Licence to Take Water can be issued.</p> <p>The most important principle of the WR Act is the protection of environmental flows throughout the Territory. The WR Act requires water to be provided to the environment prior to the allocation of water to other purposes, including consumptive use. The Environmental Flow Guidelines (Guidelines), a subordinate instrument under the WR Act, ensures the volumes and timing of environmental flows in streams, rivers, lakes and aquifers are met to maintain river systems and associated ecosystems health (known as environmental flows).</p> <p>The Guidelines apply to all Territory water resources and identify the ecological values to be protected and the measures to be employed to protect them. In the</p>

	<p>Territory, this is generally achieved by limiting the amount of water that can be extracted from a waterway in a way that protects flow variability and low flows. In selected high use catchments the Guidelines specifically identify actual flow levels that must be maintained in certain conditions.</p> <p>The ACT’s Environment Protection Act 1997 provides the regulatory framework to help reduce and eliminate the discharge of pollutants into the air, land and water. The Environment Protection Act is a framework that establishes the Environmental Protection Authority and provides for instruments like environmental authorisation.</p> <p>The Environment Protection Regulation 2005 is a subordinate instrument to the Environment Protection Act and contains rules and standards about specific aspects of the environment, such as water quality standards. Environment Protection Policies have been designed to help the community understand the Environmental Protection Act and Environmental Protection Regulation 2005 and sets out general offences in the Act which carries substantial penalties and provides guidance on meeting legislative requirements.</p> <p>The Water Resources Determination 2007 (No 1) is another instrument that assists with surface water and groundwater management in the ACT. The instrument details the areas (water management areas or boundaries) used for water management in the ACT. The Water Management Areas (WMA) instrument puts the principles and controls contained in the Guidelines into practice by detailing the surface water and groundwater available for extraction from each WMA. The management of each WMA is dictated by the primary environmental value of the sub-catchments within that WMA.</p>
<p>Economic instruments</p>	<p>Q. Please indicate and briefly describe economic instruments used for water management (e.g. charges for drinking water and wastewater treatment), and/or provide any relevant document and study assessing effectiveness and efficiency of those instruments. Please indicate the changes since the previous EPR (2007).</p> <p>The determination of water prices in the ACT is by the regulator, the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC). The price direction by the ICRC essentially requires that prices be adjusted for two things. The first is for inflation, which is the change in the consumer price index (CPI). The second is to incorporate the effect of any approved pass-through events the utility costs in prices in the following year. The standard water consumption charge for the first 0.548 kilolitres supplied costs \$2.60, through to the second tier cost of \$5.22 for water above 0.548 kilolitres.</p> <p>The ACT primarily funds its water planning and water management activities through the Water Abstraction Charge (WAC) which is a single charge levied on</p>

	<p>water users. This Water Abstraction Charge is declared by the minister under s.4C(1) of the Independent Competition and Regulation Commission Act 2007 (ACT). The WAC is currently levied at a rate of \$0.55 per kilolitre for urban water supply customers (local utility which passes the costs on to its customers) and \$0.265 per kilolitre for all other licence holders. In the 2005 OECD reporting period, the WAC levy was \$0.51 and \$0.25. During 2008 the total revenue received was \$29.5 million, of which \$29.2 million was collected from the utility and \$250 000 from other licence holders. These rates are intended to set a sustainable price for water and reflect the costs incurred by government in supplying water, including the costs of catchment maintenance, the environmental impact of water use and a scarcity pricing component.</p> <p>The Environment Protection Authority also sets a variety of fees, including for applications for a water entitlement, water licence, annual fees and the alteration of water access entitlements.</p>
Sources	<p>Q. Please indicate the main sources for the above information (websites, statistics, legislation, reports, etc.).</p> <p>http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water-strategies-and-plans/act_water_strategy</p> <p>https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/3149</p> <p>https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/1814/kw/water</p>

1.2 *Environmental quality of life*

Please provide data and information and/or any relevant document and study assessing:

- the impacts of environment degradation and pollution on human health; and

The ACT Government has prepared a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy that will help identify our priorities for adapting to climate change and to coordinate our work so we're effective in building resilience.

The strategy is important because climate projections for our region indicate warmer and drier conditions with increased frequency of natural disasters, including drought and bushfire, and severity of extreme weather events such as wild storms, flash flooding and prolonged heatwaves. Extreme weather events particularly affect our most vulnerable people—the very young and old, the poor and sick. Natural disasters put significant strains on our health and emergency services.

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/914696/ACT-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Strategy.pdf

The Health Improvement Branch is responsible for improving the health and well being of the ACT population through promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles and providing ongoing monitoring and evaluation of health programs and policy.

The Branch includes, amongst other business units, Health Promotion Service, and Population Health Research and Evaluation. The Health Protection Service performs a range of services associated with the prevention of, and timely response to, potential public health incidents, including Environmental Health.

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-living/population-health>

The key role of the ACT's Environmental Health unit is to protect and promote the good health of the ACT community through the fostering of safe and healthy environments.

Environmental Health provides information, policy development, monitoring and enforcement in relation to a wide range of public health activities, including food safety, tobacco control, cooling towers, recreational water and drinking water, radiation safety, septic systems and chemical toilets, and other environmental factors that may impact upon human health.

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/public-health/environmental-health>

The Health Protection Service licenses and registers many public health activities, including food businesses, boarding houses, cooling towers and warm water systems, drinking water, hairdressing; infection control, radiation safety, medicines and poisons, and approval to supply needles and syringes.

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/businesses/licensing-and-registration>

- the public perception of environmental quality.

The ACT State of the Environment Report is prepared by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment every four years. It provides an assessment of the state and trends of key environmental indicators, pressures on the environment, drivers of those pressures and their impacts. It also examines management initiatives in place to address environmental concerns and the effect of those initiatives. New to this report is an assessment of the resilience or capacity of the environment to continue to provide ecosystems services such as clean water, air, stable and healthy soil, and a diversity of flora and fauna, integral to achieving sustainability.

<http://reports.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2015/the-report/index.html>

The ACT Health Directorate Annual Reports provide a comprehensive report on public health, with some references to the impact of the environment (social, economic, built and natural) on the ACT community's health.

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/datapublications/reports/annual-reports>

The ACT's climate change strategy and action plan is driven by a community commitment to address climate change and our understanding that we, as a community working together, can and will make a positive contribution to global climate change. To enable adaptation to a changing climate, or to change the way we do things to cope with a changing climate, the ACT prepared a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to help identify priorities for adapting to climate change and coordinate work to effectively in build resilience.

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/581136/AP2_Sept12_PRINT_NO_CR OPS_SML.pdf

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/914696/ACT-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Strategy.pdf

SECTION 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

2.2 Framework for sustainable development and environmental management

2.2.1 Institutional framework

Indicate and briefly describe:

- 1) The institutional framework for environmental management and sustainable development in Australia (including the division of responsibilities).

- The ACT *Public Sector Management Act 1994* has the objectives to establish and maintain an apolitical public sector and to maintain a public service that assists the Executive to meet the needs of the community and serves the community on behalf of the Executive. Administrative arrangements are addressed under Division 2.3 of this Act. Current administrative arrangements have environmental management and sustainable development functions across: Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate; Minister for Housing and Suburban Development – Community Services Directorate and Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate; Minister for Health – Health Directorate; Minister for Transport and City Services – Transport and City Services Directorate; Minister for Environment and Heritage – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate; Minister for Planning and Land Management – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate; Minister for Urban Renewal - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate; Minister for Regulatory Services - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate; and Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2016-693/current/pdf/2016-693.pdf>

<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/1994-37/current/pdf/1994-37.pdf>

- In 18 September 2014 the ACT Legislative Assembly passed the *Environment Protection Amedment Bill 2014*. The *Environment Protection Act 1997* (Act) and the *Environment Protection Regulation 2005* (Regulation) are the integrated legislative framework that protects the ACT's environment by promoting environmental awareness, encouraging progressive environmental improvements, facilitating the implementation of national environment protection measures and providing a regulatory structure to help reduce and eliminate the discharges of pollutants into the air, land and water. During 2012-2013, a review of the Act and Regulations, including the public release of the Review of the Environment Protection Act 1997 Discussion Paper, was undertaken. The Discussion Paper was released on 2 August 2012 and the Public Consultation Report based on submissions received was completed in April 2013. The review identified that proposed reforms will contemporise the Act. Changes would streamline regulatory processes that would ensure the integrity of its operation and encourage better environmental practices. This is consistent with other jurisdictions and the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) reform agenda to harmonise environmental legislation

nationally.

<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/1997-92/default.asp>

- Since the last OECD environmental performance review for Australia in 2007, sustainable development and environmental management objectives have been increasingly integrated within ACT Strategic Planning mechanisms.
- The ‘Statement of Planning Intent 2015’ establishes a number of high-priority principles and actions for Strategic Planning in the ACT which includes environmental sustainability objectives (pages 3-5):
 - http://www.planning.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/898278/Statement_of_Planning_Intent_2016-web-Access.pdf
- The ‘ACT Planning Strategy: Planning for a sustainable city’ establishes a number of high-level strategic planning objectives to promote improved environmental sustainability in land-use planning and urban development across the ACT (pages: 5-7):
 - http://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/legislation_plans_registers/planning_strategy
- The ‘Transport for Canberra: Transport for a sustainable city 2012-2031’ policy contains a variety of actions to ensure the ACT transport system is integrated with land use planning, provides for increased public transport use and active travel, and contributes to reduced greenhouse gas emissions (pages 62-64):
 - https://www.transport.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/887245/Pages_from_EDS_ACT_Transport_Policy_FA_final_web.pdf
- A range of master plans completed for town and group centres across the ACT since 2012 have also incorporated specific environmental sustainability actions, including climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. These include:
 - Weston Group Centre Master Plan (pages 5, 18 & 19):
http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/current_projects/studies/weston_group_centre_master_plan
 - Woden Town Centre Master Plan (pages 14, 51 & 52):
http://www.planning.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/898272/Woden_Master_Plan-web.pdf
 - Mawson Group Centre Master Plan (pages 11, 12, 40 & 41):
http://www.planning.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/898272/Woden_Master_Plan-web.pdf
 - Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan (pages 12, 54 & 55):
http://www.planning.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/981866/20160725-Belconnen-Masterplan-CBR-Web.pdf
 - Calwell Group Centre Master Plan (pages 21, 47 & 48):
http://www.planning.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/983115/20160505-Calwell-Masterplan-Web.pdf
- On 27 November 2014, the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act) was passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly. The NC Act commenced on 11 June 2015 and can be viewed at: <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2014-59/default.asp>. The NC Act is the chief legislation for the protection of native plants and animals in the ACT and for the management of the conservation reserve network.
 - The NC Act provides for the identification and listing of threatened species and ecological communities and for the development of Action Plans which inform

recovery actions.

- Listings and Action Plans also inform the development and assessment and approval process under the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (PD Act). The PD Act is the ACT legislation that makes decisions about land use planning and the balance between nature conservation and development. The PD Act provides the broader planning framework through which nature conservation and development needs can be met in a sustainable city. The PD Act requires an Environmental Offsets Policy to compensate for environmental impacts of development.
- The Nature Conservation Strategy 2013-2023 commenced on 14 November 2013. The strategy is a statutory plan under the NC Act and helps guide future planning of the Territory's open spaces, rural areas, urban areas, riverine corridors, and nature reserves, and guide investment of funding and resources in nature conservation. A progress report for 2013-2018 was publicly released.
- http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/conservation-strategies/nature_conservation_strategy
- The ACT is currently implementing the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016* to provide a more effective regulatory environment that will encourage resource recovery and discourage landfilling and inappropriate stockpiling.

Indicate and briefly describe:

- 2) The arrangements in place for co-ordination and co-operation in policy development and implementation among different institutions and agencies – and across different levels of government (e.g. cooperation between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments). You should also include information on any changes occurred since the last EPR in 2007 (e.g. new bodies/committees).

- The ACT Government works to harmonise laws and programs with adjoining jurisdictions, and streamline processes where appropriate. Much of this work is done through the national Meeting of Environment Ministers, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and similar structures, but also through other forums such as the South East Regional Organisation of Councils, the Agvet Chemicals Task Group and the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group.
- Within the ACT there are several inter-agency platforms for cooperative works, such as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Provision of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring and Data Management. This MoU has the Health Protection Service, Environment Protection Authority and the Environment Division within Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate as the signatories.
- The ACT Government signed the Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding – [Agreement on a Common Assessment Method for Listing of Threatened Species and Threatened Ecological Communities](#) on 9 September 2015.
- The *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act), provides for recognition of assessments and recovery plans made by other jurisdictions to avoid duplication of effort (NC Act, s90A, s 100 (c)) [<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2014-59/current/pdf/2014-59.pdf>]. The ACT consults other jurisdictions on threatened species listings and provides relevant information to inform assessments.

Indicate and briefly describe:

- 3) The arrangements in place for ensuring effective multilevel governance (co-ordination and co-operation among different levels of government) for environmental management and green growth. You should also include information on any changes occurred since the last EPR in 2007.

Being a city state, the ACT Government provides both state/territory and local government services and functions. These responsibilities extend to representing the people of the ACT on many environment related national forums. The management and protection of the ACT's water resources is a key priority of the ACT Government. However, as the ACT is wholly situated within the Murrumbidgee River Catchment, which feeds into Murray-Darling Basin – Australia's largest river system and also one of the world's driest – water management is one of the most critical areas of environmental management for the ACT. As the largest population centre in the Basin, the ACT will continue to be an active and responsible participant in managing the precious and finite water resources of the Basin.

2.2.2 Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

1. Indicate and briefly describe the mechanisms used to:

- monitor the state of the environment and to provide environmental information to policy makers;
- Recent developments in monitoring; and
- Reporting activities on the environment, sustainable development and green growth, such as new reports and new indicators.

The State of the Environment Reports prepared by the Act Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment assess the condition of the environment including atmosphere, biodiversity, land, water and heritage. The assessments consider interactions between the environment, people and communities.

http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/publications/soe_about-the-report

Ambient Air Quality monitoring is undertaken in the ACT to support both the National Environment Protection Measures and an Air Quality Index to better communicate the ambient air quality to the ACT Community. The ACT Government monitors pollutants and reports against national standards.

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/public-health/act-air-quality-monitoring>

The ACT Government outlines its strategic direction and priorities for research and monitoring in the Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program (BRAMP). The BRAMP is updated biennially. The current BRAMP is accessible at:

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/review_of_the_nature_conservation_act/biodiversity-

[research-and-monitoring-program-2015-17](#)

A key activity within the BRAMP, is the Condition Effectiveness Monitoring Program (CEMP) which establishes a monitoring framework for eight representative ecosystems in the ACT's nature reserve system. A technical report about the CEMP is available at:

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1059241/Conservation-Effectiveness-Monitoring-Program_April2017.pdf

The ACT Government support evidence-based management of the environment and undertakes the collection of data and information on biodiversity assets. Monitoring of ACT threatened species and endangered ecological communities is undertaken regularly. This complements other programs to address threats – information about these projects is available at:

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/826152/Conservation-Research-and-Conservation-Planning-Program-Report-2013-15-A11759539.pdf

The ACT Water Reports provide important information about the ACT's waterways and the impact of the urban, rural, forestry and conservation land practices on them. The reports provide comment on the way the waterways are used, from recreation to irrigation. Water access entitlements and licences to take water are recorded in these annual reports.

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water_quality/act_water_reports

The Office of the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment is creating a pilot set of Systems for Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) for the ACT, with staff working collaboratively with experts on the SEEA from the Fenner School, Australian National University. Accounts will include data on waste, water, land, environmental expenditure, energy (including greenhouse gas emissions and carbon), and experimental ecosystems.

SEEA is a system that links environmental data to economic data and can help inform decision making around the environment and sustainability.

http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1018415/envirion-accounts-with-hyperlinks.pdf

2. Indicate and briefly describe the mechanisms used for evaluating ex-ante and ex-post environmental and sectoral policies and plans,

For example:

- cost-benefit analysis;
- regulatory impact analysis;
- strategic environmental assessment;
- sustainability impact assessment;
- monitoring mechanisms and reporting.

Please also provide examples where these mechanisms have influenced policy development.

- The *Planning and Development Act 2007* (Part 5.6) provides for planning reports and strategic environmental assessments to inform policy and, more commonly, planning decisions.
<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2007-24/current/pdf/2007-24.pdf>.
- Regulatory Impact Assessments and Triple Bottom Line assessments are routinely undertaken for legislative amendments and reforms. Subsidiary legislation may also require a Regulatory Impact Statement.
<http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/regulatory-impact-assessment>
<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/sustainability>.
- Vulnerability to climate Change is a consideration for major infrastructure projects. The 2012 Framework guides assessment of the vulnerability of the Australian Capital Territory's infrastructure to climate change. The Framework aims to formally integrate climate change risk assessment into government decision making and planning. The Framework recognises that infrastructure has a long life span or 'design life'. It also recognises that climate change assessment, at strategic points in the decision making process, will be vital to the delivery of effective and efficient infrastructure over the coming decades.
<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/sustainability>.
- Strategies and plans under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* are regularly reviewed. A five year progress report (2013-2018) on implementation of the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy was released publicly.
http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/conservation-strategies/nature_conservation_strategy
- Action Plans for threatened species and ecological communities outline actions to be taken for the protection of listed species. These are reviewed every 5 years and updated every 10 years. These are released publically see:
http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/conservation_and_ecological_communities/threatened_species_action_plans.

2.2.3 Stakeholder involvement

- 1) Mechanisms for involving stakeholders (e.g. non-governmental organisations, industrial associations) in decision making at the Commonwealth and state and territory level.

Including:

- mechanisms and instruments to ensure access to environmental information;
- awareness raising initiatives;
- mechanisms for assuring public participation in environmental decision making;
- public access to justice in environmental matters (examples of court cases related to environmental impacts/damage, legal standing of NGOs, judicial review of proceedings);
- policies in place to provide environmental education and the outcomes (e.g. number of environmental curricula in schools and universities).

You should also include information on any changes that have occurred since the last EPR in 2007.

- Community engagement is guided by a Community Engagement Manual.
https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/application/files/2614/6724/4263/communityengagement_FLNAL.pdf
- The *Environment Protection Act 1997* and *Nature Conservation Act 2014* provides for statutory consultation on all policies, plans and strategies made under these Acts and on listing of threatened species, threatened ecological communities and key threatening processes. Consultation is generally for a period of 6 weeks.
- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, supports three advisory committees to inform its work:
 - The ACT Heritage Council (the Council) is an independent, statutory body responsible for a range of provisions under the *Heritage Act 2004*
 - The ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group is established as a statutory body under the *Water Resources Act 2007*. It is an inter-jurisdictional coordination body committed to strengthening governance and catchment management in the ACT and surrounding regions for the long-term benefit of the ACT and Region catchment and the community.
 - The ACT Climate Change Council is established under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* and advises the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability on matters relating to reducing greenhouse gas emission as well as addressing and adapting to climate change. It looks to consult with business and the community on climate change matters in exercising its functions.
 - The Environment and Planning forum provides for engagement with community councils and other community groups
 - The Scientific Committee with statutory functions (NC Act, part 2.4) which meets 4 times per annum
 - The Natural Resource Management (NRM Advisory Committee – a ministerial advisory committee which meets 5 times a year
 - The NRM Council – an advisory committee that provides advice on investment priorities for Commonwealth funding to the ACT NRM Regional Body (hosted within the Directorate)

These Committees are ongoing. The Scientific Committee was established in June 2015 on commencement of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*. This committee replaced the Flora and Fauna Committee which was established under the Nature Conservation Act 1980. The primary change in responsibility of the Committee was to provide a formal review function for the Committee to review Action Plans (threatened species recovery plans).
(<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/advisory-bodies>)

- There are numerous opportunities to volunteer for a local reserve or the wider ACT and region. Each year, hundreds of volunteers help conserve, rehabilitate and protect our natural environment through weed control, monitoring feral animals, seed collection, plant

propagation, tree planting, trail maintenance, erosion control, monitoring plants and animals and raising community awareness. The Government supports 46 Landcare/ ParkCare volunteer groups working across ACT nature reserves, national parks, urban parks and open spaces and works closely with community landcare organisations such as Greening Australia. For example, between 2013 and 2015 over 450 community events were supported through an ACT and region woodlands restoration program and the National Landcare Program. In 2015, 180 Waterwatch volunteers surveyed over 200 sites across the upper Murrumbidgee catchment and over 200 people recorded 7200 plant and fungi sightings in Canberra Nature Map.

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/volunteers>

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/parks-conservation/parks-and-reserves/get-involved/parkcare-and-urban-landcare-program>

<http://actlandcare.org.au/>

<http://canberra.naturemapr.org/>

2.3 Regulation, enforcement and compliance

- 1) Briefly describe any major changes in the environmental permitting and licensing system since the previous EPR (2007).

Include information related to:

- responsible institutions and agencies;
- key requirements;
- procedures;
- differences across classes/types of projects/industry.

Please also indicate if a system of Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control is in place and how it works.

A comprehensive review of the *Environment Protection Act 1997* was finalised in 2014. Outcomes from this review included:

- Enhance enforcement capabilities by providing response options that are proportionate to the environmental damage caused through the introduction of enforceable undertakings and strict liability offence provisions for specific actions.
- Broadening the definition of environmental harm to include the concept of 'likelihood' or 'potential' to cause environmental harm and removal of government immunity.
- Waste transfer stations and treatment of e-waste are regulated through licensing because of the potential to cause significant harm to the environment..

The *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (Chapters 6,7, 9, 10 and 11) refreshed requirements for licensing of a number of key areas relating to:

- Taking, killing, harming native species and their nests
- Trade in species (both native and exotic)
- Land management and recreation in Reserves

The *Fisheries Prohibition and Declaration 2016* [<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2016->

[282/default.asp](#)] brought fishing regulations into line with those in New South Wales and Victoria, with some exceptions to protect an important population of fish, with the aim of improving compliance and enforcement.

Enhanced licensing and compliance capability has been established within the Parks and Conservation Service and a training strategy implemented.

- 2) Briefly describe the *Environmental Impact Assessment* (EIA) process and provide information on its implementation (e.g. number of projects assessed by category, number of projects rejected, etc.)
- And/or please provide the most recent statistical report on this issue and any study assessing the effectiveness of EIA in influencing project design.

Environmental impact assessment of development proposals in the ACT is required in accordance with the ACT *Planning and Development Act 2007* (PD Act) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Under the PD Act there are several levels of assessment, depending on the type of proposal. These include an Environmental Significance Opinion, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and EIS Exemption. These are administered by the planning and land authority.

An EIS is required if any of the following are applicable:

- the development is listed in Schedule 4 of the PD Act
- the development is listed in the relevant Territory Plan development table for the zone as impact assessable
- the development isn't mentioned in a development table of the Territory Plan
- the Minister for Planning has asked for an EIS
- the proposed development is prohibited by the relevant development table in the Territory Plan, but an existing lease over the land already allows for that development
- the Minister responsible for the Public Health Act 1997 has declared the impact track applicable

The ACT also has a bilateral assessment agreement in place with the Commonwealth Government.

Further information can be found at:

- <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/environment-assessments/bilateral-agreements/act>
- http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_assessment/environmental_impact_statements/bilateral_eis_process

There are a number of projects which have been or are currently being assessed through an EIS or EIS Exemption process. These are listed at:

- http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_assessment/exemption_from_requiring_and_eis_s211
- http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_assessment/current_and_completed_eiss

Environmental impact assessment in the ACT is used to inform subsequent development applications (in most instances).

The ACT currently has two strategic assessments approved under the EPBC Act, namely for the

development of the Molonglo Valley and Gungahlin.

Further information is available at:

- <http://www.environment.gov.au/node/18605>
- <http://www.environment.gov.au/node/18600>

3) Briefly describe land-use planning:

- policies (and their evolution since 2007)
- regulations (and their evolution since 2007)
- co-ordination mechanisms (and their evolution since 2007)

Include information at both the Commonwealth and state and territory levels.

Please also provide examples of positive and negative experiences.

- The *Planning and Development Act 2007* [<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2007-24/default.asp>] is the ACT legislation that makes decisions about land use planning and development.
- The Territory Plan, made under the Planning and Development Act, is the key statutory planning document in the ACT, providing the policy framework for the administration of planning in the ACT. The purpose of the Territory Plan is to manage land use change and development in a manner consistent with strategic directions set by the ACT Government, Legislative Assembly and the community. It must not be inconsistent with the National Capital Plan. The Territory Plan includes a statement of strategic directions, a map (the Territory Plan Map) which sets out zones and precincts in the ACT, objectives and development tables applying to each zone, and a series of general, development and precinct codes. It also includes structure plans and concept plans for the development of future urban areas [<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2008-27/default.asp>].
- The Planning Strategy was adopted by the ACT Government on 26 June 2012. A planning strategy provides long-term planning policy and goals to promote orderly and sustainable development, consistent with the social, environmental and economic aspirations of the people. A long-term planning strategy is required under the Planning and Development Act 2007. http://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/legislation_plans_registers/plans/planning_strategy
- The ACT Environmental Offsets Policy is a statutory policy under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, which commenced on 2 April 2015. The ACT Environmental Offsets Policy (the Policy) outlines the ACT Government's approach to the use of environmental offsets ('offsets') for matters of national environmental significance (matters of NES) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and for ACT protected matters. The Policy is implemented through a range of provisions under the Act. These include provisions relating to:
 - the consideration of matters of NES through environmental assessment processes
 - processes for referral to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (the Conservator) and the Commonwealth Minister responsible for administering the EPBC Act
 - conditions of approval for protected matters as part of development approvals

- development of guidelines to assist in the development and consideration of environmental offsets
- methods for calculating offsets
- the offsets register and
- Offset Management Plans.
- The Policy is supported by a Delivery Framework which reflects the provisions of the Planning Act and a number of administrative processes. See <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/environmental-offsets-policy>

4) Please provide data and/or information on the inspection of permitted actions or activities:

For example:

- number of inspections per year;
- category of action/activity;
- non-compliance cases;
- amount of fines;

Alternatively, please provide the most recent statistical report on this issue.

Environment Protection Act 1997

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) maintains a public register of current Environmental Authorisations and Environment Protection Agreements issued under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* (the EP Act).

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/view_all_agreements_authorisations

Additionally, the EPA reports against regulation and enforcement activities to the government in annual reports. The relevant information is explained and summarized below.

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/about/annual_reports

Environmental Authorisations

An Environmental Authorisation (EA) is a form of licence granted under section 49 of the EP Act, which sets out the conditions under which activities, with a significant potential to cause environmental harm, may be conducted.

Activity (Schedule 1 Class A of the EP Act)	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total Current Authorisations
Controlled burns				1						2
Commercial incineration				1						1
Composting	1									2
Material crushing, grinding or separating		2					1		3	9
Commercial production of alcoholic beverages										
Crematorium										1
Extraction of material from a waterway	9	10	2	3	2	2		3		7
Firewood	3	3	4	2	2	3	4	3		22
Keeping poultry										1
Commercial landfills										2
Logging										1
Land development/Construction										
Logging										
Milk production										1
Motor sports		1	1			1	1	1	1	5
Motor sports and outdoor concerts										1
Outdoor concerts	8	10	6	6	14	4	10	12	7	3
Commercial use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals	4	5	6	13	9	10	6	20	8	129
Petroleum storage		47	4	14	1	1	1		2	66
Road building material production										2
Production of concrete			1							9
Sewage treatment										2
Sewage treatment and incineration									1	1
Placement of soil on land	6	6	7	4	3	8	3	1	4	11
Transportation within the ACT of regulated waste	1	2	2		3	2	9	6	1	16
Transportation within the ACT of controlled waste							3	9	1	8
Timber milling										2
Waste petroleum recovery				1						1
Wool-on sheepskin tanning										
Operation of a Firearm Shooting Range		5								5
Treatment of contaminated soil			2	2						2
TOTAL	32	91	35	47	34	31	35	55	31	312

Environmental Protection Agreements

Environmental Protection Agreements are formal, non-contractual agreements between the EPA and businesses. In partnership with the EPA these agreements are designed to help businesses to manage their environmental performance.

Section 38 of the EP Act provides for the EPA to enter into Environmental Protection Agreements generally for the purposes of the EP Act. The section also allows the agreements to be used instead of Environmental Authorisations where people are conducting certain activities that entail a moderately significant risk of environmental harm (those listed in Schedule 1 Class B of the EP Act; see also

subsection 42(2) of the EP Act).

Activity (Schedule 1 Class B of the EP Act)	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total Current Authorisations
Land development/construction	31	30	38	45	47	57	51	54	44	154
Municipal services	1	0	1			1				
E-waste dismantling and storage							1			1
Wastewater reuse		2	1	1				2	1	2
Contaminated sites							7		4	10
TOTAL	32	32	40	46	47	58	59	56	49	167

Contaminated Land Notifications

The EPA has received 48 Contaminated Land Notifications under section 23A of the EP Act during the reporting period. The majority related to operational and abandoned service station sites where contamination had been detected during routine maintenance or redevelopment of the sites. There have been 86 notifications since the contaminated land provisions were enacted in 1999.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Contaminated land notifications			1	7	26	7	5	2	

Contaminated Land Searches

The EPA maintains records of known, potentially contaminated and remediated land in the ACT. This information is made available through the Lease Conveyancing Enquiry through the ACT Planning and Land Authority and Contaminated Land Search through Access Canberra to ensure persons with an interest in the land have access to records held by the EPA. The information is also provided under agreement to utility providers and other areas of the ACT Government for their operational requirements for installation and maintenance of infrastructure. There have been 2,747 contaminated land searches during the reporting period.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Contaminated land searches	210	181	219	272	259	357	423	413	413

Comments on Planning Documents

The EPA makes comments on development applications referred from the ACT Planning and Land Authority, the National Capital Authority and other territory plan documents. The EPA has commented on 5,227 planning documents during the reporting period.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2015-16	2016-17
Planning document comments	289	1012	643	1170	956			1,157

Complaint handling

During the reporting period the EPA responded to 13,608 public complaints covering a range of issues, with noise complaints being by far the greatest category of complaints, as presented in the following table:

Environmental Issue	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Air	119	156	102	128	128	143	77	294	180
Asbestos		3	1	3	3	1	3		4
Firewood			1	1	1				3
Illegal fishing				2	2	6	8	4	5
Land contamination		1				1	8		
Light pollution	2	20	16	14	14	26	26	41	32
Noise	1,494	1,375	822	1,127	1,127	998	1,357	1,510	1,980
Other hazardous materials	22	2	1	15	15	5	11	10	5
Ozone		1							
Pesticides			1	1	1	1		2	1
Power boats		3	1	1	1		3	1	1
Oil Spill								4	
Dirt on Roads								23	3
Sediment and Erosion Control								21	50
Solid fuel heaters	54	18	41	46	46	84	127	82	91
Trees	2								
Waste collection	23	3	4			9	24		
Water	86	60	50	58	58	42	56	70	77
Other	94								
TOTAL	1,896	1,642	1,040	1,396	1,396	1,316	1,700	2,061	2,557

Enforcement Activities

Individuals or businesses may incur penalties such as on-the-spot fines, Environment Protection Orders or prosecution for breaches of the EP Act. On-the-spot fines have been issued for minor breaches of the EP Act, mainly at building sites and for discharges to stormwater and excessive noise. More serious matters are subject to orders or prosecution.

Enforcement Action	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total Current Authorisations
Service of first infringement	39	26	13	21	13	14	12	5	6	406
Service of final infringement	9	12	8	2	3	1	1		1	124
Environment protection orders	1		1					1	1	38
Environment improvement plan										
Prosecution										
Out of Court Settlement										
TOTAL	49	38	22	23	16	15	13	6	8	168

Water Resources Act 2007

In addition to the EP Act, the EPA has responsibility for administering the *Water Resources Act 2007* (WR Act). The WR Act aims to ensure the use and management of the ACT's water resources are sustainable while protecting the ecosystems that depend on the waterways. It is also designed to protect waterways and aquifers from damage.

Licences are issued under the WR Act for activities ranging from water abstraction and bore construction works to construction and maintenance of waterway structures and bore water drilling.

License Type	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Bore works licence	7	6	7	4	3	7		3	
Waterway works licence	37	40	33	58	25	26	20	25	25
License to take water	182	10	9	8	7	10	16	6	3
Water entitlements traded		1	4	5	2	13	25	4	1

Enforcement Activity

Licencees under the WR Act are regulated with an educative process and people are given advisory notices and warnings when potential compliance issues begin to develop. This process can prevent serious harm or breaches of the WR Act. As such the number of formal or punitive instruments under the WR Act is low.

Enforcement action	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Direction				1	4	1	
Infringement notice	1	1			3		
Prosecution							
Total	1	1	0	1	7	1	0

Lakes Act 1976

The Delegate of Lakes is responsible for administering the provisions of the Lakes Act 1976, including responsibility for works approval on the lakes and lake closures due to blue-green algae outbreaks and pollution incidents.

During 2010-11 the Delegate of Lakes closed Lake Tuggeranong from April to June 2011 due to extreme levels of blue-green algae. The Molonglo Reach water ski area was also closed due to safety concerns associated with debris following the flood events in early December 2010 and March 2012. Molonglo Reach was also closed due to the water level in Lake Burley Griffin being lowered by half a metre to facilitate the National Capital Authority undertaking maintenance works on Scrivener Dam during 2011-12.

Clinical Waste Act 1990

The EPA also holds the statutory position of Clinical Waste Controller under the Clinical Waste Act 1990 with responsibility for approving transporters of clinical waste in the ACT. During the reporting period the Clinical Waste Controller reviewed and approved four annual licence renewals and 11 permits for vehicles to transport clinical waste.

- 5) Briefly describe the non-compliance responses (administrative and judicial enforcement), their evolution and results (including environmental legal cases against businesses, individuals and public administration).

- 6) Please provide information on new negotiated agreements/voluntary initiatives by industry, environmental management systems, environmental audits, environmental reporting.

For example, agreements with industry that commit participating sectors or companies to specific challenges or performance levels.

Land Management Agreements (LMAs) - All rural landholders are required to enter into an LMA as part of their lease conditions. LMAs provide for a co-operative land management between lessees of rural land in the ACT and ACT Government agencies responsible for managing non-urban land on behalf of the Territory. The Government's agricultural staff work with landholders to develop the Plan and Property Map. Refer to http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/buying_selling_and_leasing_property/leases-and-licenses/rural_leases

The ACT Waterwatch program is a community engagement initiative managed by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate with funding from the ACT Government and ACTEW Water. The aim of the program is to encourage and support the community to take responsibility for improving the quality of water in the catchment. The Waterwatch program is an environmental education and awareness program that aims to encourage and support the community to take responsibility for improving the quality of water in the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment.

<http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/>

SECTION 3 – TOWARDS GREEN GROWTH: MARKET-BASED INSTRUMENTS AND TRANSITION MEASURES

The purpose of this section is to collect information on the environmental policy mix, in order to assess its economic efficiency and its effectiveness in influencing the trends described in Section 1.

3.1 Taxation, economic instruments and subsidies

- 1) Please look at that the information on Australia included in the [OECD/EEA database on instruments used for environmental policy and natural resources management](#) and ensure that it is correct and up-to-date.

Alternatively, please provide the most recent statistical report on environmentally related taxes.

Water Abstraction Charge

The Water Abstraction Charge is paid by users licenced to take water in the ACT. This includes both water taken for urban and non-urban use.

This charge represents a mechanism for recovering the significant water catchment management costs incurred by the ACT Government, and to ensure that the cost of water adequately reflects the environmental cost of water use and the value of water as a scarce natural resource.

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water_planning_and_management/act_water_abstraction_charge

- 2) Briefly describe the main changes, since 2007, introduced in:

- a. fuel and vehicle taxes;
- b. pollution taxes (e.g. on emission to air and water);
- c. resource taxes (e.g. on water abstractions, forest, fishery and mining);
 - d. Please include any relevant document and study assessing effectiveness and efficiency of those instruments.
 - Please provide information on tax rates, tax bases and exemptions, and on their changes since 2007.
 - Please also provide tax revenues since 2005.

3) Please provide any relevant data and information on subsidies and state aid provided to:

- production and consumption on energy products;

The Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) requires electricity retailers to achieve energy savings in households and small-to-medium enterprises. The Scheme also provides targeted assistance to low income households through a 20% Priority Household Target.

Since the EEIS commenced on 1 January 2013, over 76,000 households have participated in the Scheme, including over 19,000 priority low income households. Over 1,100,000 energy saving items have been installed, saving over 690,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.

Commercial lighting activities started being delivered in EEIS from the start of 2017. In the first quarter of 2017, about 300 Canberra businesses received lighting upgrades with over 19,500 lights installed, and more than 5,200 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions avoided.

The Sustainability Programs Section of EPSDD delivered a range of Actsmart incentive and educational programs focusing on energy and water efficiency and waste reduction to homes, businesses, ACT Government agencies, event organisers, schools and the community.

Actsmart Programs provided direct engagement between the ACT Government and the community to improve environmental sustainability and empower individuals and organisations to take action to mitigate climate change. The programs offer a range of rebates and behaviour change methods including education, workshops and online tools. The programs emphasised the importance of behaviour change combined with upgrades of equipment, facilities and appliances. The programs produced quantified reductions in energy use, GHG emissions and waste sent to landfill.

To meet our energy targets to 2020, the ACT Government has established the ACT Sustainable Energy Policy which details the social, economic and environment challenges we face with energy production and use. This integrated policy framework has the following four key targeted outcomes:

- Outcome one: secure and affordable energy
- Outcome two: smarter use of energy
- Outcome three: cleaner energy
- Outcome four: growth in the clean economy

The Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is responsible for developing and implementing a range of energy policy initiatives including:

- Ongoing development of energy market reforms aimed at lowering power prices and improving choice for energy customers
- Planning for, and the coordination of energy emergencies
- Technical regulation of energy utilities to ensure power system reliability and safety
- A range of energy efficiency policy and programs
- Delivering on the ACT's 100% Renewable Energy Target
- Implementing the Government's Renewable Energy Local Investment Framework

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/581664/EDS_ACT_Sustainable_Energy_Policy_FA_web_A.PDF

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy>

- provision and use of public transport services;

- agriculture and forestry;

ACT Rural Landholders Taking the Next Step - this grant program, supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, delivers \$450,000 of funding between 2014 and 2017 to support not only farming enterprises, but also the delivery of benefits to the broader community by building resilient and healthy farming lands which produce clean water, support biodiversity and support sustainable food and fibre production. Individuals and groups of rural landholders can apply for up to \$10,000 for individual landholders and up to \$50,000 for groups of landholders.
<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/act-nrm/grants-awards-and-events/rural-grants>

- fishery;

Nil

- mining, quarrying and oil/gas extraction;

Nil

- manufacturing;

Nil

- and/or provide any relevant document and study assessing environmental and economic impacts of such subsidies.

Nil

- 4) Please provide data on tax expenditure of environmental significance, i.e. on revenue losses due to discounts, exemptions and other allowances that reduce the tax base (e.g. exemptions on excise duties on energy products, corporate tax credits for investment in renewable energy sources).

Lease Variation Charge – concessions for energy efficient developments

In the ACT, the Lease variation Charge is levied on the uplift in land value resulting from a change in the lease conditions of the land.

The ACT Government provides a Lease Variation Charge discount of up to 25 per cent for development applications that nominate a high energy efficiency rating, which are defined as:

- a Green Star rating of 5 or more, or
- a Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) rating of 6.5 or higher.

This discount applies for four years up to 6 March 2018.

Motor vehicle duty – Vehicle Emission Reduction Scheme

In the ACT, motor vehicle duty is payable upon the registration or transfer of a motor vehicle.

The ACT Government charges a lower duty on low emission new vehicles, while charging a higher duty on higher emission vehicles. This differential scheme provides an incentive for the purchase of new environmentally friendly vehicles.

Motor vehicle registration – gas and electric vehicles concession

In the ACT, motor vehicle registration fees are payable upon the renewal of a registration. Gas or electric vehicles receive a 20 per cent concession on the registration fees.

- 5) Indicate and briefly describe any form of support given to environmentally friendly behaviour. The support can be for a product or service (e.g. bonuses for fuel efficient appliances).

Please also provide any relevant document and study assessing effectiveness and efficiency of such support.

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy>

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/grants>

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cc/community-zero-emissions-grants>

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/growth-in-the-clean-economy>

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/get-involved/waterwatchact>

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/act-nrm/grants-awards-and-events>

<http://www.actsmart.act.gov.au/>

3.2 Environment-related expenditure and financing

- 1) Please briefly describe, and/or indicate relevant documentation available on the environmental component of the government's budget and national growth/development programmes.

The ACT Government directly funds the provision of much of the ACT's waste infrastructure and services through private companies. Others services are provided by the private sector due to market conditions created by the ACT Government (through the setting of landfill gate fees or appropriately zoned land and low rates etc).

The 2016-17 budgets provided continued funding for the expansion of the Mugga Lane landfill, the closure and remediation of the Belconnen Landfill, the expansion of pilot programs to collect garden waste and the implementation of a container deposit scheme.

<http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/budget>

http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/about-us/annual_report

- The ACT's bus service, ACTION, have always been early adopters of new Euro Standards, which is reflected by the choice of buses in the ACTION fleet.

- An Electric/Hybrid Bus Trial will be conducted from June 2017. This will consist of 2 Electric Buses (Carbridge) and 1 Electric Diesel Hybrid (Volvo). There will also be three Diesel ‘control’ buses as part of the trial.
- Transport Canberra have started working with the current bus provider, SCANIA, to consider deliver driver training to reduce fuel usage and therefore carbon output.
- Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate are working on a bid for Arena Funding for a Biodiesel study around the Transport Canberra Network.
- The new Woden Bus Depot will be design with passive inclusion to reduce power and water needs.

http://www.transport.act.gov.au/about/policy/transport_planning_studies

<http://www.transport.act.gov.au/about/policy/public-transport-improvement-plan>

http://www.transport.act.gov.au/about/policy/service_policy

http://www.transport.act.gov.au/about/policy/transport_for_canberra_policy

ACTUAL FLEET				IN SERVICE FLEET				BIKE RACKS			
HINO AC140	0			HINO AC140	0			HINO AC140	Total	In Service	Bike Rack
MITSUBISHI ROSA	18	SNT	18	MITSUBISHI ROSA	18	SNT	18	MITSUBISHI ROSA	18	18	0
PR100-2	75	Training	4	PR100-2	69			PR100-2	75	69	69
PR100-3	26		0	PR100-3	24			PR100-3	26	24	24
PR180-2				PR180-2	0			PR180-2	0	0	0
DENNIS DART	6	DDA	335	DENNIS DART	6	DDA	335	DENNIS DART	6	6	0
AGORALINE	19			AGORALINE	19			AGORALINE	19	19	19
SCANIA CNG	54			SCANIA CNG	54			SCANIA CNG	54	54	54
SCANIA 14.5	26			SCANIA 14.5	26			SCANIA 14.5	26	26	0
SCANIA ARTIC	33			SCANIA ARTIC	33			SCANIA ARTIC	33	33	33
MAN CNG	16			MAN CNG	16			MAN CNG	16	16	16
MAN DIESEL	89	EURO III+	310	MAN DIESEL	89	EURO III+	310	MAN DIESEL	89	89	89
SCANIA Euro VI	92		0	SCANIA Euro VI	92	EURO V+	238	SCANIA Euro VI	92	92	92
						EURO IV+	256				
TOTAL FLEET	436	SNT	18	IN SERVICE FLEET	428	SNT	18	IN SERVICE FLEET	436	428	
TOTAL FLEET + TRAINING	440				Euro III+	72.43	Euro V+	55.61	Total BR	371	Insert BR
TOTAL FLEET WITH SNT			458	TOTAL FLEET	DDA%	78.27			Inservice %		92.52

- 2) Please ensure that the information provided in Australia’s reply to the OECD Questionnaire on the State of the Environment, section on Environmental Protection Expenditure and Revenue, is up-to-date. Alternatively, please provide the most recent statistical report on this issue.

Nil response required. The Department of the Environment and Energy’s Environmental Performance Review Team will complete this question.

- 3) Provide data and any relevant information on public and private expenditure for “green investments” (other than directly for environmental protection and control).

Include information relating to renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and sustainable transport infrastructure.

In partnership with industry, the ACT Government is rolling out a comprehensive package of funding to support Canberra-based renewable energy business and attract new ventures to the Territory. This includes the \$12 million Renewable Energy Innovation Fund, the \$25 million Next Generation Energy Storage program and a range of trades training and research support programs.

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/growth-in-the-clean-economy>

The ACT Government continues to invest in active travel infrastructure to improve our walking and cycling networks, and to integrate active travel with public transport. In 2015 the ACT Government established an Active Travel Office and released the Active Travel Framework, to prioritise a strategic approach to encourage more Canberrans to walk and cycle as a mode of transport. The Framework identifies mode share targets of 7% each for walking and cycling as modes of transport by 2027.

<http://www.transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/active-travel>

92% of the ACTION bus fleet will be fitted with bike racks by the end of June 2017. \$1,500,000 was invested in improvements for the Sullivans Creek Cycle Path since 2015, with a further \$3,300,000 invested in the ACT Government’s active travel program in 2016-17, and an additional \$1,750,000 for various off-road path upgrades in 2016-17. Projects have included verge upgrades, age friendly suburb infrastructure and town centre upgrades.

<https://www.transport.act.gov.au/news-and-events/items/may-2017/bike-racks-to-be-installed-on-transport-canberra-articulated-buses>

- 4) Provide data and any relevant information on financing sources for the construction of environment-related infrastructure and the provision of environmental services, including:

- national/local public funds;

The objective of the ACT’s Water Abstraction Charge (WAC) is to cover the environmental management direct and indirect costs incurred in the diversion, capture and storage of water, including the construction of environmental related infrastructure, and to provide a price signal which can contribute to the efficient consumptive use of water. The ACT’s WAC is determined by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and charged under the Water Resources Act 2007, collected by Icon Water and received by Treasury into consolidated revenue. It is a volumetric charge on water consumption, potable water is charged at \$0.55/KL and direct and secondary (non-potable) water use is charged at \$0.265/KL. The Water Act 2007 (Cwth) requires revenue raised by charges on water to be identified and spent against identified water related purposes, as referred to by the National Water Commission. It is reviewed by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in annual compliance

audits. The audit report is sent to the Commonwealth Minister. WAC revenue increases and decreases with water usage which is closely related to prevailing weather and seasonal changes but is expected to increase as the cost for new development comes on line.

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water_planning_and_management/act_water_abstraction_charge

- Co-financing from international sources;

Nil

- Revenue from charges for environmental services. Please also provide an assessment of the degree of cost recovery through fees and charges (e.g. waste and water charges).

5) Please describe the mechanisms and instruments in place to mobilise private sector investment for environmental purposes, including initiatives involving the financial sector.

3.3 Environmental goods and services (EGS) sector

1) Please provide data and information (or provide the most recent statistical report) on trends in the environmental goods and services sector (e.g. value added, export/import).

Please also include information relating to the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.

FTE Employment in Renewable Energy activities by Renewable Energy type, Australian Capital Territory

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Solar	80	180	170	90	160
Growth (%)		125.0	-5.6	-47.1	77.8
Wind	-	-	-	-	-
Biomass	-	-	-	-	-
Other (a)	-	-	-	-	-
Govt / NPI (NPI = Non-Profit Institutions)	370	370	400	490	470
Growth (%)		0.0	8.1	22.5	-4.1
Total	450	550	570	580	630
Growth (%)		22.2	3.6	1.8	8.6

Source: ABS Cat. No. 4631.0 (latest released on 17 March 2017)

- 2) Please provide information about the role of the private sector in providing environmental services such as waste management, waste water treatment and water supply.

Most of the waste infrastructure and services in the ACT are delivered and managed by the private sector under service agreement or via various public private partnership arrangements. For example: kerbside waste collection services are provided by private sector operators contracted to the Government; the landfill is built and operated under contract with private companies; the Material Recovery Facility for comingled recyclables is operated under a design, build, operate and transfer contract.

- 3) Indicate and briefly describe policies and measures to support the EGS sector (e.g. labelling, public procurement).

The ACT has a sustainable procurement policy

http://www.procurement.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/16027/Sustainable-Procurement-Policy.pdf

- 4) Please provide any document or study that assesses the impacts on the EGS sector of environmental policies or of specific policy measures.

The ACT Government is investing in Canberra's transport network and promoting the use of sustainable transport including walking, cycling and public transport. Transport for Canberra: Transport for a Sustainable City, sets the foundation for transport planning in the ACT for the next 20 years. Sustainability is one of the six key principles of Transport for Canberra, and it provides the policy foundation for Government investment in transport infrastructure and services.

https://www.transport.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/887245/Pages_from_EDS_ACT_Transport_Policy_FA_final_web.pdf

In relation to reducing carbon emissions, the ACT Government also has policy on Active Travel and Freight.

https://www.transport.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/888712/Active-Travel-framework-ACCESS.pdf

https://www.transport.act.gov.au/about/policy/transport_planning_studies/act-freight-strategy

These policies provide the direction for investment and policy in active transport and freight in the ACT. The ACT's Park and Pedal Programme is a good example of a transport programme that is aimed at achieving environmental benefits as well.

<https://www.transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/active-travel/active-travel-for-the-community/park-and-pedal>

Another example of this is the current ACT Budget is funding for the Belconnen Bikeway Project.

Lastly, the Government runs Vehicle Emissions Reduction Scheme as a market based mechanism to reduce emissions from transport.

https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/2928/~/_duty-payable-upon-registration-or-transfer-of-a-motor-vehicle#!tabs-2

<http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/budget>

http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget_2010/

http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget_2009/

http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget_2008/

http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget_2007/html/paper3.htm

3.4 Eco-innovation

- 1) Indicate and briefly describe eco-innovation priorities and the strategies to promote eco-innovation.

The ACT strongly supports the concept of product stewardship (or extended producer responsibility) to ensure that the businesses responsible for creating waste take responsibility for ensuring that their products are recovered at the end of their life for recycling or beneficial reuse. Examples of effective product stewardship schemes operating in the ACT include oil (2001) e-waste (2011), paint (2017). The ACT is currently introducing an industry funded container deposit scheme to recover beverage containers and is investing in other operations to progress state/territory or national product stewardship schemes for other products.

- 2) Indicate and briefly describe the institutional setting and governance for eco-innovation, including mechanisms for policy evaluation and monitoring.

Within the ACT Legislative Assembly there are two types of Assembly committees: standing committees and select committees. Standing Committees are created at the commencement of an Assembly and remain in operation for the life of the Assembly, while select committees are created to consider specific matters, generally within specific time frames.

<http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees>

- The Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services examines matters related to city and transport services, public infrastructure, heritage, and sport and recreation and matters related to all aspects of climate change policy and programs, water and energy policy and programs, provision of water and energy services, conservation, environment and ecological sustainability.
- The Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal examines matters relating to planning, land management, the planning process, amendments to the Territory Plan, consultation requirements, design and sustainability outcomes including energy performance and policy matters to support a range of housing options.

- Every year the Select Committee on Estimates seeks the views of community and industry representative groups on the ACT Budget. The ACT Government presents the Budget in the Legislative Assembly then the Budget papers will be available on the Treasury website and this committee invites submissions of interest and concern to the community and industry groups relating to the Budget.

3) Indicate and briefly describe policies and measures to promote eco-innovation:

- supply side measures: investment (public and private) in environment- and climate-related research and development (R&D expenditure and personnel); demonstration and commercialisation; networks and partnerships; education and training;

- demand side measures, including green public procurement and demand support (e.g. financial incentives);

4) Please indicate any relevant study assessing:

- the economic efficiency and the effectiveness of the policy measures to promote eco-innovation;
- the impacts of eco-innovation in terms of improved environmental performance, resource productivity and energy efficiency.

5) Provide some examples of innovative products that reduce pollution or increase environmental efficiency.

The Government has established two programs under the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012* to support roll out of LED and facilitating the phase out of mercury containing lamps in the commercial sector. The mercury containing lamps are recycled. This removes mercury from the ACT landfills and the kerbside waste management system and increases energy efficiency in the household and business sectors.

<http://www.actsmart.act.gov.au/what-can-i-do/business/lighting-upgrades-for-businesses>

The ACT Government has introduced a range of innovative programs to encourage active travel, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion. One of these programs include Australia's first Park & Pedal; a scheme which encourages Canberrans to drive only part way to work, park their cars for free and pedal their bikes the remainder of the journey.

http://www.transport.act.gov.au/about/policy/transport_planning_studies

<https://www.transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/accessible-transport-options>

3.5 Social consequences

1) Distributional implications.

- Please provide information on disparities in access to environmental services considering differences between (for example) regions, social groups (including indigenous groups), and gender.

- Please provide information on disparities in exposure to environmental health risks (e.g. pollution, hazards) considering differences between (for example) regions, social groups (including indigenous groups), and gender.

The small size, well planned urban environment, and relatively homogenous social structure of the ACT results in few disparities in exposure to environmental health risks. That said, the Tuggeranong Valley experiences spikes in wood smoke exposure over the colder months due to the tendency for a confined inversion layer over the valley holding the smoke at a low level. As Canberra's town centre populations grow with the adoption of population densification strategies and the increase in mixed-use developments, noise complaints are likely to increase in these areas due to increase population exposure.

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/public-health/act-air-quality-monitoring/real-time-graphs>

https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/61/~noise

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/residential_information/noise_in_residential_areas

People that do experience economic hardship support is offered for low income families through programs such as the Actsmart Low Income Energy Efficiency Program and the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme.

http://www.assistance.act.gov.au/adult/utilities/outreach_energy_and_water_efficiency

<http://www.actsmart.act.gov.au/what-can-i-do/homes/energy-efficiency-improvement-scheme>

The Territory Wide Risk Assessment Report considers the risk associated with a range of natural, environmental and other hazards that, should a disaster event occur as a result of any of these hazards, would require a coordinated multi-agency response and the activation of the Emergency Coordination Centre, and potentially other specific operations centres, to manage the event. The Territory Wide Risk Assessment project has been undertaken in accordance with the principles and generic guidelines on risk management provided in the standard AS/NZS ISO 31000: 2009 – Risk Management: Principles and guidelines and the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines 2010. These documents provide a platform to a systematic approach for identifying, analysing, evaluating and treating emergency risks to effectively determine the most appropriate strategies for managing such emergencies and mitigating the impact on the community, its social fabric and surroundings.

<http://esa.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Territory-Wide-Risk-Assessment-Report.pdf>

- Please briefly indicate measures taken for integrating distributive concerns in environmental policy decisions (e.g. social tariffs, increases in social welfare payments etc.).

- Please provide any document or study assessing the distributional implications of environmental policy or of some specific policy measures.

2) Employment.

- Please provide data and information (or provide the most recent statistical report) on:
 - employment in the environmental goods and services sectors, including the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors;

- graduates in environment-related subjects.

- Please provide any document or study that assesses the direct and indirect employment impacts of environmental policies or of specific policy measures.

3.6 Environment, trade and development

- 1) Please describe the objectives and priorities of Australia's international co-operation on environment.

The ACT's Woodlands and Wetlands Trust (WWT) has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with New Zealand's Karori Sanctuary Trust (ZEALANDIA) to foster collaboration and to support cross-promotion. The ACT has already learnt much from our cross-tasman colleagues, including how to develop opportunities for volunteers to engage in 'fence patrols' at Mulligans Flat.

The following text is an extract from the MOU.

- i. ZEALANDIA and WWT have increasing common interests, contacts and intersection between areas of work in conservation, threatened species protection and restoration, habitat management, and community engagement.
- ii. WWT and ZEALANDIA recognise the potential benefits in developing co-operative links that will enable each organisation to maximise the opportunity to achieve targeted outcomes.
- iii. Both ZEALANDIA and WWT feel substantial mutual benefit may accrue from formalising a relationship between the two parties based on a principle of co-operation and collaboration. The following proposed memorandum of co-operation is based upon mutual recognition of the above factors.

iv. Preliminary discussions have taken place and ZEALANDIA and WWT consider their common interests will be promoted through mutual cooperation in the development of a strong working relationship in areas including:

- Conservation and restoration practice
- Sanctuary models
- Amenity development (e.g. visitors centre)
- Staff development opportunities (e.g. exchanges)
- Cross-promotional activity

<https://mulligansflat.org.au/meet-our-new-zealand-sister-sanctuary/>

<https://jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au/2016/05/18/meet-our-new-zealand-sister-sanctuary/>

<https://mulligansflat.org.au/accelerating-ecotourism-opportunities-in-canberra/>

<https://australiainnz.com/2017/02/03/capital-cities-pioneering-wildlife-conservation-together/>

2) Please list and describe any bilateral and regional co-operation on environment-related issues that is undertaken/overseen/managed/engaged with by your area. Please also list and describe any similar co-operation that began in or after 2007 but has since concluded.

The South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SERO) was established in 2010. It is the youngest of seventeen ROCs in NSW. In May 2012, the ACT Government became an official member of SERO, acknowledging the important relationship between the ACT and the surrounding South East NSW Region. Underpinning this was a Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Collaboration, signed in December 2011, between the ACT and NSW Government.

Since its inception in 2010, SERO has worked collaboratively on several regional priorities such as waste management, establishing a Capital Region Living website, identifying skill shortages and developing an industry attraction investment framework.

http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/339360/SEROCMOU_signed.pdf

<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/functions/publications/annual-report-2012-13/section-a/a9/output-1-1>

Established under Part 7A of the *Water Resources Act 2007*, the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group has the functions of:

- advising the Minister on matters relating to water catchment management in the ACT and the Australian capital water catchment region
- any other function given to the group under this Act or another territory law.

Membership of this group comprises:

- ACT Head of Service
- Director-General of the administrative unit responsible for the legislation prescribed by regulation
- Commissioner of the ACT Emergency Services Agency
- a representative of the National Capital Authority, who is nominated, in writing, by the authority
- a representative of the New South Wales government agency with responsibility for water catchment management in the Australian capital water catchment region (however described), who is appointed by the Minister
- a representative of the community's interests in water catchment management, who is appointed by the Minister
- a chair, who is appointed by the Minister and not otherwise mentioned in this section
- any other person prescribed by regulation.

<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2007-19/current/pdf/2007-19.pdf>

http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/corbell/2015/cross-border-catchment-coordination-group-established

3) Please provide any document assessing the environmental impacts of trade and investments flows and mechanisms in place to minimise adverse impacts.

For example:

- implementation of [OECD guidelines on multinational enterprises](#);
- environmental provisions of export credits;
- environmental provisions in regional/bilateral trade agreements; and
- corporate social responsibility.

4) Please provide information on the enforcement of trade-related provisions of multilateral environmental agreements (smuggling, mislabelling, etc.).

5) Please briefly describe or indicate relevant documentation related to the integration of environment or climate issues in development co-operation, with particular reference to:

- quantitative data on aid directed to environment- and climate-related projects in partner countries;
- mechanisms to ensure that environmental issues are taken into considerations in development activities that are not environment-related (e.g. environmental impact assessment procedures).

- 6) Please indicate any update with environment-related relevance to the [2013 OECD - DAC Peer Review of Development Co-operation](#) in Australia.

Nil response required. This question relates to Australia's Overseas Development Assistance program.