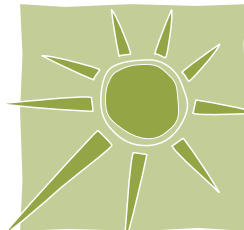
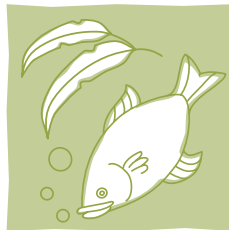




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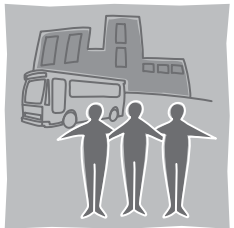
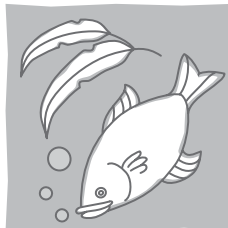
# annual report 2014-15





Office of the Commissioner for  
Sustainability and the Environment

# annual report 2014-15



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ISBN: 978 0 642 60641 9

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Office of the Commissioner for  
Sustainability and the Environment

## TRANSMITTAL CERTIFICATE

Mr Simon Corbell MLA  
Minister for the Environment  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

This Report has been prepared under section 6(1) of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* and in accordance with the requirements under the Annual Report Directions.

It has been prepared in conformity with other legislation applicable to the preparation of the Annual Report by the Office for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

I certify that the attached Annual Report is an honest and accurate account and that all material information on the operations of the Office for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment during the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 has been included.

I hereby certify that fraud prevention has been managed in accordance with Public Sector Management Standards, Part 2.

Section 13 of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* requires that you cause a copy of the Report to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 4 months of the end of the financial year.

Yours sincerely

Ms Ann Lyons Wright  
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

27 August 2015

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This Office is independent of, but funded by, the ACT Government.

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### B1 Organisational overview

#### B1.1 Our role

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development under the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*. The Commissioner is accountable to the Legislative Assembly through the Minister in relation to the role's operations. This Office exists to support the Commissioner's role.

The Commissioner is a statutory office holder and our Office operates as an independent statutory body. Our staff members are employed under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and observe the ACT Public Service Code of Ethics.

The *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* is the current enabling legislation for this Office.

The Act specifies that the Commissioner shall:

- produce 'State of the Environment' reports for the ACT;
- investigate complaints about the management of the environment by the Territory or a territory authority, and issues relating to ecologically sustainable development (ESD);
- conduct investigations as directed by the Minister;
- initiate investigations into actions of an agency where those actions would have a substantial impact on the environment of the ACT; and
- make recommendations for consideration by government and include in its annual report the outcomes of those recommendations.

The Office administers no other legislation and has no other regulatory activities.

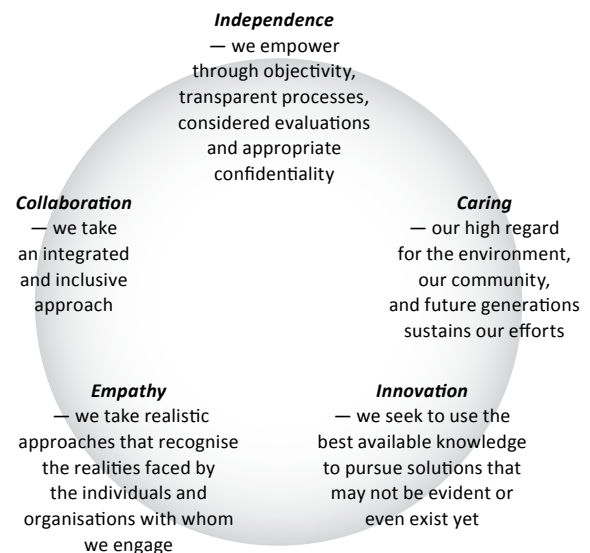
#### B1.2 Our vision

The vision of the Office of the Commissioner is 'Living Sustainably'. The vision captures our commitment to help the community and government act in ways that advance sustainability and good management of the environment.

#### B1.3 Our mission

Our mission is to advance sustainability through advocacy, independent scrutiny, reporting and advice.

#### B1.4 Our values



**Figure 1: Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment values**

### B1.5 Our objectives

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (the Office) has four main objectives.

- **Investigation and resolution:** to enhance understanding and provide guidance by investigating and resolving complaints.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** to advance sustainable practices and better management of the environment through independent monitoring, analysis and reporting.
- **Engagement and advocacy:** to be an independent voice that advocates for, and raises awareness of, sustainable practices and environmental matters.
- **Capability:** to foster a collaborative culture built on professional expertise and networks.

### B1.6 Directorate relationships

The ACT Government via the Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) provides corporate support for matters such as accommodation, financial reporting, recruitment and other personnel services. Shared Services ICT—located within Commerce and Works of the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate—provides information management, procurement and information technology support.

### B1.7 Our structure

The Office comprises a full-time Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, two senior managers (SOG B equivalent), two project officers (PO 2) and one office manager (APS 5). While this level of staffing reflects our standard allocation and organisational structure (see Figure 2) some variability occurs at times where increased workloads are incurred or particular opportunities become evident. This year the office hosted a graduate from the Environment and Planning Directorate (EPPD) who worked in the office from February until June. A temporary part-time contractor was also employed for a period of time. During the 2014–15 financial year Mr Robert Neil continued his appointment as Commissioner. The remuneration tribunal sets the remuneration for executives, and an independent assessment takes place to ensure positions are remunerated at the most appropriate level.

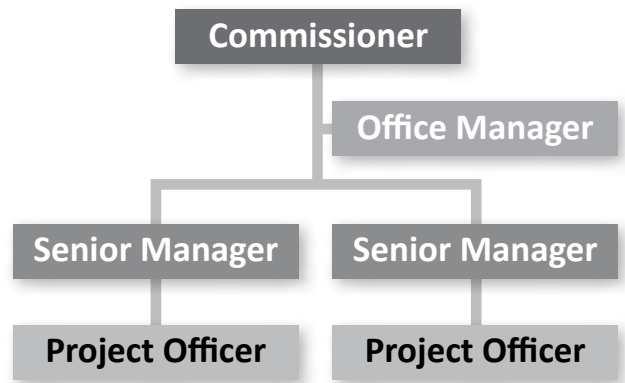


Figure 2: Office for the Commissioner for Sustainability organisational chart

### B1.8 Our clients and stakeholders

Our work is relevant to the ACT community and in particular:

- the ACT Government and members of the Legislative Assembly;
- the general community, including current and future generations;
- environment and sustainability interest groups;
- expert advisory groups — environment, sustainability and other sectors;
- other commissioners locally, nationally and internationally;
- business and industry;
- academics and researchers
- professional bodies and interest groups;
- local and national media;
- councils of the Australian Capital Region; and
- New South Wales and Australian Governments.

### Significant committees of the agency and their roles

Our Office relies on and appreciates the contributions made by executive and staff of the ACT directorates and the expertise and time provided on a voluntary basis by numerous academic and other subject experts. Individually and as members of expert advisory panels, they support and enable the work of the Office. Members of panels convened during 2014–15 and their roles, are listed in Appendix 1.

## B1.9 Summary of achievements

Our achievements during 2014–15 cover our key functions:

### a. Statutory

- Complaints which raised systemic issues in evidence across the Territory;
  - ▣ receiving, acknowledging and progressing one new complaint
  - ▣ finalising one complaint from the 2013–14 financial year.
- Planning and writing the 2015 ACT State of the Environment Report.
- Special reports — there were no Minister or Commissioner-initiated investigations during 2014–15.

### b. Advocacy

- Engaging with young people through direct contact with universities and schools.
- Giving presentations to key stakeholders including academics and researchers, government personnel and the general public.
- Hosting and participating in meetings, forums and workshops with business leaders, other ACT commissioners, researchers and innovative thinkers.

### c. Other reports and projects

- Delivering the first Implementation Status Report (ISR), the first assessment of Action Plan 2 (AP2) the ACT's climate change strategy, *Weathering the Change: 2007–25*.
- Further scoping, research and stakeholder engagement to guide future strategies for effectively integrating ecologically sustainable development (ESD) into all aspects of the work of all ACT directorates.

## B1.10 Outlook: current and future challenges and opportunities

Work on the 2015 ACT State of the Environment Report (ACT SoER) will continue into the 2015–16 financial year with the 2015–16 Budget providing for this, along with other anticipated work.

### 2015 State of the Environment Report

The SoER is due to the Minister on 21 December 2015. Office staff members are drafting most sections of the SoER in-house. The final round of peer and directorate reviews has been arranged and will take place after editing and layout is complete in September 2015. Final editing, design and layout of chapters for the report are due for completion by mid-October 2015.

As usual, the report will include Commissioner's recommendations. Draft recommendations will be sent to all directors for fact checking and for information, in line with the Office's 'no surprises' policy. Directorates are required to respond to the 2015 recommendations in the Office's 2016–17 annual report. This process is an important aspect of the ongoing independent assessment role of the Office in relation to the ACT Government's environmental management effectiveness.

In July 2014 the Office commissioned the third ACT *Ecological Footprint Report* for inclusion within the 2015 ACT State of Environment Report. The 2015 *Ecological Footprint Report* will be delivered early in the 2015–16 financial year and will update information from the 2011 footprint report. It will also comment on comparisons, trends and changes that have occurred since the last report.

### Complaints

While it is difficult to accurately forecast and budget for work to manage community-generated complaints, our environmental scan suggests that possible issues for the 2015–16 financial year include:

- planning — issues around infill and building heights in town centres;
- Riverview development and other proposals for green field developments;
- Yarralumla/brickworks development;
- light rail; and
- eastern grey kangaroos and culling.



### **Investigations**

As usual, we will undertake investigations if directed by the Minister. Possible/potential Commissioner-initiated investigations include targeted audits on progress of recommendations from past investigations.

### **Ecologically sustainable development**

Operationalising ESD as defined in the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* as an effective component of planning and reporting, including in ACT directorate annual reports, is no easy task. Acknowledging this complexity and the need to work across all ACT directorates, the Office has an ongoing project to increase the implementation of ESD within the ACT.

The focus is on working with the directorates to implement learning from the series of ESD workshops with directorate representatives and others, held in 2014. Along with insights from these workshops and findings from commissioned research by Dr Jerry Bates<sup>1</sup>, the Office is working to develop a robust set of ESD indicators. The aim is to have these align more closely with indicators against which directorates routinely collect data. However, internationally developed genuine progress indicators (GPIs) will be considered in developing the indicator set.

The Office intends to extend the current focus on utilities and resource usage reporting, to include reporting on sustainability gains by considering ESD implications as a key component of planning and program decisions. Further to this work, the Office will revisit the Bates report recommendations on progressing ecologically sustainable development in the ACT. The report recommended that the Office:

- develop key indicators of sustainability performance. These indicators should be set by consultation with relevant government agencies, and informed by government policies;
- review whether these key indicators are being used by government agencies in decision-making, recognising that directorates have a legal duty to report on ESD within their annual reports;
- broaden the language to include intergenerational equity and develop intergenerational equity reporting;
- encourage the preparation of an annual whole of government sustainability report to determine to what extent directorates are adopting a whole of government approach to delivering the intent of policy and legislated objectives; and
- act as a focal point for developing whole of government approaches to sustainability when agencies are developing or modifying standards, policies and plans.

Based on work and considerations to date, likely directions for 2015–16 are:

- work with the directorates to prepare a set of sustainability indicators relevant to the ACT, based on currently available data sets routinely collected by, and where possible, across the directorates and implementable within triple bottom line reporting requirements;
- assess capacity within existing triple bottom line reporting to incorporate additional indicators from the GPI set of 26 indicators and establish an expert panel and collaborative partnerships to work on developing and trialling an extension of current triple bottom line reporting framework. Likely candidates within the ACT would be the EPD, the Education and Training Directorate (ETD) and the Office of the Auditor General;
- as part of the evaluation of the 2015 ACT SoER, assess the indicator set for congruence and possible further inclusion of GPIs; and
- develop collaborative partnerships within the Canberra Capital Region to learn from ESD practice in those jurisdictions and to encourage the extension of ESD strategic action and reporting across the region, and in a possible 2016 ACT regional SoER.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/publications/special\\_reports\\_and\\_investigations/expert-paper-on-esd](http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/publications/special_reports_and_investigations/expert-paper-on-esd)

## **Advocacy**

A large proportion of the ACT population is highly educated, relatively affluent and environmentally aware and concerned. This section of the population is vital to the work of the Office in continuing to provide expert input and alerting us to local issues. This sector also has a key role in supporting the advocacy role of the Office in engaging the wider community for increased sustainability and government commitment and action to preserve and protect our local landscapes, habitats and biodiversity.

Our continuing challenge is to reach out to groups that are generally less directly engaged with environment and sustainability issues yet are vital to the work of the Office. These include:

- young people as future custodians of the environment;
- residents who are currently not aware, concerned or engaged with efforts towards environmental protection, locally and globally in terms of climate change in particular;
- directorates other than EPD and Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) whose core business is not directly associated with environment and sustainability;
- other stakeholders such as the Heart Foundation that encourage active transport; and
- regional councils, and organisations such as the South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence (SERREE), including possible engagement in the development of a regional renewable energy trail and a regional (South East Regional Organisation of Councils) SoER.

## **Future projects**

Work will commence in 2015–16 on a number of projects due for delivery in 2017. Funds have been allocated to the following projects in the Office's 2015–16 Budget:

- Second Implementation Status Report (ISR) for Action Plan 2 (AP2)

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the 2014 assessment report were developed independently from the Office. We anticipate that our experience in developing the first ISR will position us well to provide valuable input and guidance in developing the ToR and indicators for the next ISR due in 2017.

- Gungahlin strategic assessment

The Office will undertake an independent audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Implementation Plan (five-yearly) with the report due in mid-2018.

- Nature conservation strategy

Reporting on progress of the implementation of the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23 is due four-yearly but has yet to be confirmed.

- Lower Cotter catchment

Evaluate the restoration of the lower Cotter catchment against the management goals contained in the Strategic Management Plan and recommend priorities to the Minister for the Environment for the next decade, by December 2017.

## B2 Performance analysis

This section of the report includes an assessment of our performance against our key statutory functions as indicators:

1. publication of the ACT State of the Environment Report;
2. responding to community complaints; and

3. undertaking investigations by ministerial direction or initiated by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

Comment is also provided on progress in other major projects and initiatives.

**Table 1: Summary of performance against the Office’s accountability indicators**

Accountability indicators <sup>(a)</sup>	Original target 2014–15	Actual result 2014–15	Variance from amended target
Report on the uptake of recommendations on the 2011 ACT State of the Environment Report and special reports	June 2015	June 2015	0%
Completion of ministerial-initiated investigations in accordance with the Minister’s direction	n/a	n/a	n/a
Completion of Commissioner-initiated investigations in accordance with terms of reference	n/a	n/a	n/a
Completion of complaints-generated investigations in accordance with the terms of reference	100%	100%	0%
Reports on complaints about management of the environment by the Territory or territory agency	June 2015	June 2015	0%

### **Publication of the 2015 ACT State of the Environment Report (SoER)**

The reporting period for the 2015 ACT SoER is from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015 and is due to the Minister on 21 December 2015. In 2012, the Office undertook a review of the 2011 SoER and incorporated findings and feedback received in developing a new framework for the 2015 SoER. The revised framework continues to use the driving forces, pressures, state, impacts and responses (DPSIR model) and reports on themes and indicators as in the 2011 Report. However SoER 2015 will include new aspects such as report cards and an independent review of management responses.

Much of the writing of the 2015 SoER has been done in-house by the Office’s staff members, with expert input and advice for particular sections. We again gratefully acknowledge the many voluntary contributions of expertise, as well as the cooperation

from ACT Government staff, particularly in EPD and TAMS, but also other directorates with less immediate responsibility and actions for environmental protection (See participant list, Appendix 1). To the end of the 2014–15 financial year we have:

- incorporated recommendations from the 2011 review;
- developed the report framework, indicators and structure incorporating:
  - ☐ outcomes of the evaluation of the 2011 SoER;
  - ☐ consultation workshops;
  - ☐ advice of a ‘conceptual modeller’ to assist with ways of explicating complex, interconnected ideas and concepts;
  - ☐ ACT directorate input;
  - ☐ graphic design and input;

- developed and commenced implementation of a data collection and analysis plan;
- commissioned an independent assessment of ACT ecosystems services, environmental resilience and environmental management effectiveness;
- contracted a range of subject matter experts to provide advice and assistance to in-house writers as required;
- designed a formal review process with guidelines and an expert review panel for each theme and the report as a whole; and
- commissioned the third ACT *Ecological Footprint Report* for inclusion within the 2015 ACT State of the Environment Report.

### State of the Environment reporting in the Australian Capital Region

The broader work of the Office continues to focus on Canberra within the wider region and recognises the need for a greater focus on how decisions made and actions taken in the ACT impact the region and vice versa. The Office continues to engage with regional groups such as the South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SEROC), and individual councils on environmental reporting in the region. Changes to New South Wales reporting legislation in 2012 (via the *Local Government Amendment [Planning and Reporting] Act 2009 No 67*) changed the way that councils report on the state of the environment. As a result, a comprehensive regional state of the environment report has not been feasible. However, the Office and councils in the ACT region have continued to engage on environmental reporting and the SEROC councils have expressed interest in having a regional SoER in 2016 when regional reporting requirements will again align.

### Addressing community complaints

Our Office received one new complaint during 2014–15 relating to alleged damage to public unleased land (PUL) that was complex and potentially raised systemic issues for further assessment.

The Office also completed its response to one complaint about compliance with development plans of management in Woden Green.

The Office maintains a watching brief in relation to a complaint lodged in December 2013 about the ACT Government program of annual culling of eastern grey kangaroos.

As indicated in our previous annual reports the Office also receives general inquiries that are resolved through discussions with the Commissioner, site visits and where relevant, introductions to appropriate individuals within the directorates. Resolution of the matter of concern is often achieved by bringing all parties together to discuss the issues.

**Table 2: Summary of complaints**

Complaints status	Number and topic
Complaints on hand at end 2013–14	2 — Culling of eastern grey kangaroos; Building heights in Belconnen town centre
Complaints received during 2014–15	2 — Alleged damage to PUL in Hackett; ACT Government compliance with <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) (EPBC)
Complaints closed during 2014–15	1 — Compliance regarding Woden Green development
Complaints pending	3 — Building heights in Belconnen; Alleged damage to PUL in Hackett; culling of eastern grey kangaroos

**Table 3: Summary of broad subject area of complaints lodged in 2014–15**

Broad subject area	Number of complaints
Air quality	0
Biodiversity	1
Water	0
Trees	0
Waste	0
Planning process and decisions	0
Damage to nature reserve land	1
Other	0

**Table 4: Complaints lodged in 2012–13**

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Status
February 2013	Buildings heights in town centres	Building heights in town centre of Belconnen	The Office gathered information to assess if the complaint is systemic across all town centres. This included reviewing the status of master plans and precinct codes with regard to height requirements. It also looked at the accessibility of finding the information easily and then interpreting it.	Pending

**Table 5: Complaints lodged in 2013–14**

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Status
December 2013	Biodiversity	The scientific rationale relating to kangaroo culls in the ACT	This complaint was based on a range of issues including: the efficacy of culling in open systems, threatened species, measuring biomass to gauge biodiversity, keystone species and actual impacts on biodiversity, grazing pressure and desirable kangaroo densities. An eastern grey kangaroo adaptive management plan is in place. Gathering data to assess the efficacy of the plan and possible need for updating requires several years of monitoring.	Pending
July 2013	Planning	Compliance with management plans for Woden Green development	Potential for failure to occur in comprehensively implementing the requirements of management plans on the ground. The number of parties involved in the day-to-day management and development of sites may be a factor in making best practice implementation of the plans a challenge.	Completed

**Table 6: Complaints lodged in 2014–15**

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Status
July 2014	Damage to nature reserve land	Alleged damage to PUL associated with construction work	The key issues of concerns regarding the use of public land related to construction truck access and potential damage, and management of runoff.	Pending
July 2014	Biodiversity protection	ACT Government compliance with EPBC conditions of approval in relation to offset sites	The Commissioner was contacted in August 2014 about the ACT Government's compliance with the EPBC Act especially in relation to offsets. However, advice received from both the Australian and ACT Governments was that the matters were within the jurisdiction of the Australian Government and therefore not within the scope of responsibility of the Commissioner's Office.	Complaint did not proceed to investigation.

**Details of complaints addressed during 2014–15**

One completed complaint

*Compliance with development plans of management (Woden Green)*

The concerns included:

- difficulty communicating with the site contact and identifying relevant directorate personnel, and difficulty in contacting them;
- lack of public awareness and consultation with the public in the earlier stages of the process;
- the extent of the project and its overall impact, including the balance between development and pedestrian access/use of cycle paths; and
- compliance with management plans including the Traffic Management Plan and the Land Management and Protection plans including the Tree Management Plan.

One complaint nearing finalisation

*Alleged Damage to Public Unleased Land (PUL) associated with construction work on block 20, Section 28 (99 Rivett St) Hackett — Helms Place*

The key issues of concern regarding the use of public land (Helms Place partly a road reserve) access to Mt Majura nature reserve were:

- allowing trucks access to construction materials on Helms Place;
- access into the nature reserve (to rear of the private dwelling);
- heavy machinery travelling over tree roots and compacting land; and
- Sediment and runoff management/control.

The issues raised by the complainant and information gathered by the Office in relation to them indicate a systemic problem across the Territory in relation to other development sites located in close proximity to nature reserves and public greenspace. It appears that key factors are inadequacies in relevant management policies covering permits and bonds. Further to this, the problems are compounded by insufficient attention and resourcing to provide for adequate monitoring and accountability systems. The final report will be sent to relevant directorates for information and fact checking in late July 2015.



One ongoing strategic complaint

*Building heights in town centres (Belconnen)*

This is a long standing complaint which, at its centre, indicates a need for greater collaboration and connection between ACT Government agencies and system-wide improvements in planning and development application and approvals processes. The final report is in preparation for circulation to the relevant agencies for information and fact checking in October 2015.

A watching brief

*Community responses to the annual culling of eastern grey kangaroos as a conservation management tool*

The TAMS Directorate has permission to cull 5000 eastern grey kangaroos over two years as part of an adaptive management strategy for protecting grasslands. The 2015 cull is for up to 2466, with all reserves closed from 30 April to 1 August 2015. In the past, community concerns about the cull have resulted in complaints regarding the legality, process and need for the cull. However, challenges to the administration process in the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) have been unsuccessful.

The TAMS Directorate's position is that the cull is an integral and research-based component of its adaptive management strategy. The Commissioner supports the continued development of a strong research base for the management strategy with strategic monitoring to assess the efficacy of the cull in protecting grassland and woodland ecosystems and biodiversity and health of other flora and fauna species, particularly those which are threatened and vulnerable.

**Investigations directed by the Minister 2014–15**

There were no investigations directed by the Minister in 2014–15.

**Investigations initiated by the Commissioner 2014–15**

There were no investigations initiated by the Commissioner in 2014–15.

**B2.1 Report on Legislated functions**

This section of the report complies with the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*, specifically:

1. s.14(8), which requires reporting of complaints received which did not proceed to a full investigation, and the reasons for the decision;
2. s.20(a), any special factor that the Commissioner believes had a significant impact on the environment during the year;
3. s.20(b), measures taken during the year by, or for, the Territory in relation to implementation of any recommendations in a State of the Environment Report under s.19 or a special report under s.21; and
4. s.23, information to be included in agency annual reports.

**B2.1.1 Complaints not proceeding to investigation**

This section of the report provides information against S.14(8) the requirement to report on complaints received which did not proceed to a full investigation, and the reasons for the decision.

The Office responded to one reporting of a complaint which did not proceed to a full investigation.

The Commissioner was contacted in August 2014 about the ACT Government's compliance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act), especially in relation to the management of offset sites. However, advice received from both Australian and ACT Governments was that the matters were within the jurisdiction of the Australian Government and therefore not within the scope of responsibility of the Commissioner's Office.

**B2.1.2 Any special factor that had significant impact on the environment**

This section of the report provides information against s.20(a) requirements to report against any special factor that had significant impact on the environment.

While Canberra remains a very liveable city there is a need for vigilance and action to maintain the health and integrity of our environment, now and for future generations. The ACT Government's ambitious 90 per cent renewable energy (electricity) target by 2020 and associated programs to achieve this in the ACT, are a welcome indication of a commitment to policy development aimed at positive environmental outcomes for the ACT and more broadly.

Effective implementation, monitoring and reporting on the ACT Government’s policies and programs remain critical to achieving progress towards a more sustainable Canberra. One of the challenges of the Office is to determine effective ways of working with ACT directorates so as to integrate ESD into all aspects of their work. This is an important next step in progressing ESD.

In financially uncertain times, there is a need for even greater responsibility and efficiency in the use of resources. However, it is essential that in this setting we continue to recognise that the environment underpins our social and economic wellbeing and invest appropriately for the future of our city, our community and our ecosystems.

Key issues for the ACT now and into the future include:

- encouraging greater use of public and active transport to reduce car dependence and the associated negative health and environmental costs of emissions and associated infrastructure;
- reduction and improved management of waste, including building and construction waste;
- balanced and environmentally sensitive greenfield and brownfield development; and
- effective regional engagement and collaboration, particularly for the protection and management of catchments.

### B2.1.3 Directorate implementation measures on 2011 ACT SoER recommendations

This section of the report provides information as required by s.20(b) of the Act, to report on progress made by the ACT Government directorates in implementing any recommendation made in a State of the Environment Report under s.19, or in a special report under s.21. Special reports are those arising from any investigation initiated by the Minister or the Commissioner.

This 2014–15 annual report presents information relating to actions undertaken between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 against any ongoing recommendations in the *2011 ACT State of the Environment Report (SoER)*. The information is presented in Table 8 and is directly as advised by the relevant ACT Government directorate.

The 2011 ACT SoER used titles and acronyms for ACT directorates and agencies which were correct at the time. Since the report publication some directorate titles and acronyms have changed. Table 7 lists directorate titles and acronyms and where these have changed since the publication of the 2011 ACT SoER, the former titles and acronyms are provided to facilitate cross-referencing with that Report.

**Table 7: Directorate and agency titles and acronyms used in Table 8**

Directorate title used in 2014–15 <i>Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report</i>	Directorate acronym in 2014–15 annual report	Directorate title used in 2011 ACT SoER	Directorate acronym used in 2011 ACT SoER
Chief Minister, Treasury, Economic Development Directorate	CMTEDD	Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate	CMTD
Environment and Planning Directorate	EPD	Environment Sustainability and Development Directorate	ESDD
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate	TAMSD	Territory and Municipal Services	TAMS
ACT Education and Training Directorate	ETD	No change	
Economic Development Directorate	EDD	Now within Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate	CMTEDD
ACT Health	Health D	No change	
Community Services Directorate	CSD	No change	
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	JACSD	No change	
Land Development Agency	LDA	No change	



**Table 8: Directorate responses to 2011 ACT SoER recommendations (B2.1.3)**

(Note that responses have been published as provided by directorates to the Commissioner and so will be grammatically and stylistically inconsistent)

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD and TAMSD, ETD	<p><b>1)</b> Establish cross-boundary management of the ACT's water resources including:</p> <p>i. Developing catchment policy and an integrated water supply catchment management strategy, as recommended in previous State of Environment Reports; and</p> <p>ii. Strengthening integrated management action by facilitating improved exchange and use of information, such as spatial information, between government agencies, Natural Resource Management groups and Catchment Management Authorities, and by promoting sustainable catchment management with landholders and the community.</p>	<p>EPD reported that The ACT Water Strategy, <i>Striking the Balance</i> was released on 1 August 2014 and will guide management of the Territory and region's water supply, management and catchment practices over the next 30 years.</p> <p>The ACT Water Strategy includes outcomes, strategies and actions that incorporate the full breadth of water management activities in the ACT, including but not limited to catchment management, stormwater and flood management, water supply and services water for the environment, recreational water use, and public health.</p> <p>The Strategy is focused on achieving three outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Healthy catchments and waterbodies</li> <li>2. A sustainable water supply used efficiently</li> <li>3. A community that values and enjoys clean, healthy catchments</li> </ol> <p>A number of the actions within the ACT Water Strategy will deliver against recommendation 1 (2011 SOE report), in particular the requirement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish catchment management arrangements to better integrate water and land management for improved water quality and catchment health in the ACT and region;</li> <li>• further developing an evidence base on which the ACT can make planning and investment decisions will require ongoing efforts to collect data</li> <li>• develop an integrated catchment management plan for the ACT to guide land and water management for protection of water quality and water supply; and</li> <li>• enhance ACT spatial planning framework for natural resource management (NRM) to inform management of land, water and biodiversity.</li> </ul> <p>Establishing catchment management arrangements is a key focus for the ACT government. The Government has established, with the agreement of regional stakeholders, an interim ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group focussed on improving cooperation, coordination and alignment of effort in regional catchment management issues. The Coordination Group will be formally established through amendments to the <i>Water Resources Act 2007</i>, and given regional expression through inclusion in the Memorandum of Understanding between the ACT and NSW for Regional Collaboration. The Group has met twice in February and May 2015 and is giving priority to the development of a regional integrated catchment management strategy. The strategy is expected to be available for community consultation early in 2016. In addition to these significant policy initiatives, the ACT has moved to accelerate delivery of the ACT's Basin Priority Project with Phase 1 well advanced during the year with the development of a comprehensive ACT-wide water quality monitoring program with a focus on six priority catchments. The analysis from Phase 1 will be used to inform the business case required for the second phase of the project — the construction of major water quality interception/improvement structures. The six priority catchments are:</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014-15 directorate update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower Molonglo (new development)</li> <li>• Upper Molonglo (source water)</li> <li>• Tuggeranong (lake)</li> <li>• Yarralumla Creek (infill/developed)</li> <li>• Riverview, West Belconnen (Greenfields development)</li> <li>• Fyshwick (industrial/wetlands development)</li> </ul> <p>Phase 1 is due to be completed in June 2016 with a business case to be provided to the Commonwealth for Phase 2 projects by the end of 2015. Funding for Phase 2 projects will be subject to assessment and approval by the Commonwealth. Phase 2 projects are to be completed by mid 2019.</p> <p>Governance arrangements for the project have been progressed using the Interim Coordination Group as the Cross Border governance body. Two Project Advisory Groups representing scientific, academic, peak professional and a wide range of Community/Catchment Management Groups also provide input into the design and delivery of the project.</p> <p>TAMSD reported that land managers are supporting landscape-scale management of ACT water resources. Projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerrabomberra Wetlands receives waters from the Molonglo and Jerrabomberra Catchments. Managers have worked with catchment groups and neighbours to encourage land practices which don't compromise water quality. The 2015 Jerrabomberra Wetlands Concept Plan identifies a number of potential projects to improve water quality including a weir across the Causeway Channel and the treatment of stormwater from Fyshwick and the proposed East Lake developments.</li> <li>• Googong Foreshores surround the Googong Dam in NSW and are managed by TAMSD to ensure water quality of this part of Canberra's water supply is safeguarded.</li> <li>• The Government will actively manage an additional 20,000 hectares of water catchment land following the construction of the enlarged Cotter Dam. The delivery of an integrated catchment management program will ensure water quality is not compromised by threatening elements such as environmental weed invasion, erosion and sedimentation, vertebrate pests and inappropriate visitor interaction including anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Two new positions will be funded to deliver land management works from 2015-16 budget.</li> </ul> <p>ETD reported that the Directorate meets with Sport and Recreation Services (SRS) bimonthly to coordinate, support and where possible minimise duplication of co-located outdoor facilities particularly natural grass ovals and thus achieve irrigation efficiencies.</p> <p>The design and documentation of both natural and artificial grass playing fields at Melrose High School is a direct result of the coordination and collaboration across directorates.</p> <p>ETD also reported that, in coordination with the Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) infrastructure at Lyneham Primary School, Lyneham High School and Dickson College linking to the northern reticulation system has been installed. The northern reticulation system constructed by EPD supplies recycled water for irrigation purposes. Two of the schools use this recycled water to maintain a safe and consistent natural grass playing surfaces.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD	<b>2)</b> Complete assessment of the ACT's at risk groundwater resources.	<p>EPD reported that in August 2013, the directorate had received an updated report on groundwater recharge rates in the sub-catchments that have the majority of abstraction bores. The recharge assessment covers a full range of recharge conditions (i.e. a period of extreme drought followed by an El Nina high rainfall cycle).</p> <p>The latest recharge assessment validates previous calculations on sub-catchment recharge rates. Groundwater monitoring has not yet been further augmented, as only a handful of low volume bores have been installed during the past 2 years and these have not significantly increased the risk profile of the sub-catchments.</p>
EPD, TAMSD, ETD	<p><b>3)</b> Update water management, monitoring and reporting programs to inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Actions to mitigate impacts of urban development on water quality;</li> <li>ii. The efficacy of Water Sensitive Urban Design measures;</li> <li>iii. Improvements in sediment and erosion mitigation actions; and</li> <li>iv. Management of ACT lakes.</li> </ul>	<p>EPD reported that as part of Phase 1 of the ACT Basin Priority Project an ACT-wide water quality monitoring program is being put in place, updating and realigning existing monitoring arrangements to reflect changes in land use and technology. As well as addressing water quality monitoring across the whole of the ACT, more intensive monitoring is also occurring in the six priority catchments as well as a detailed audit of the performance of existing infrastructure.</p> <p>A further project (under Phase 1) to investigate, audit and analyse existing ACT Government water quality infrastructure assets was also conducted to assess the effectiveness of existing water quality infrastructure and recommend possible augmentation and improvement opportunities. This will support the overarching objective of improving water quality in a cost effective and efficient manner.</p> <p>In conjunction with the ACT Water Strategy, in August 2014 the Government also released the report of the review of Water Sensitive Urban Design regulations in the ACT, following extensive consultation with industry and the community as well as a survey of stakeholders who had submitted development or building applications in the past three years. Research was also undertaken on WSUD implementation in other jurisdictions and WSUD's influence on housing affordability. The review was assisted by an expert technical panel. TAMSD is represented on the expert technical panel and has also provided input into the development of the ACT Water Strategy.</p> <p>TAMSD reported on a number of sedimentation and erosion mitigation activities:</p> <p>In 2013–14 Fyshwick boat ramp access track to Molonglo River was resurfaced to address erosion which was washing sediment into the River.</p> <p>In 2013–14 follow up environmental weed control was undertaken in the restoration of the foreshore area of Molonglo Reach. The works were completed from both conventional spray vehicles and working from a floating spray barge to access difficult areas. Greening Australia Volunteers were used to manually remove weeds from around newly planted trees and shrubs in the restoration area.</p> <p>Water management is an aspect of the increased collaborative emphasis of flood management and assessment of major urban design proposals, both of which are focuses for ESA.</p> <p>TAMSD also reported that land managers have implemented projects to improve water management, monitoring and reporting. Examples are:</p> <p>Jerrabomberra Wetlands has installed 12 groundwater and six surface water monitoring stations. Data is collected both manually and automatically which has allowed development of a model for ground and surface water movements across the Wetlands. This has been related to water quality testing to monitor the impact of leakages from Fyshwick and East Lake waste disposal areas.</p> <p>ETD reported that Sediment and erosion mitigation works are being actioned across ACT public schools. In particular natural swales, massed planting areas over dryland grass areas and management of student use of outdoor areas. This has been implemented within selected areas of Aranda Primary School, Calwell High School, Charles Conder Primary School, Charnwood-Dunlop Primary School, Giralang Primary School, Lyneham High School, Melrose High School and Namadgi School.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD, TAMSD and ETD	<p><b>4)</b> Improve monitoring to assess the impact of erosion on local land and water resources, and to help to understand the interactions between the ACT’s catchment and ecosystem services in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Undertake baseline soils mapping for the ACT to facilitate monitoring and assessment of soil condition;</li> <li>ii. Identify indicators of land health including soil heath, vegetation quality and change, and land use changes, and monitor and publicly report on these on a regular basis;</li> <li>iii. Improve limited land health data by including land health assessments in water catchment data to inform soil condition across the ACT; and</li> <li>iv. Improve actions related to sediment and erosion mitigation.</li> </ul>	<p>TAMSD reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Soil landscape mapping was completed previously at the 1:100,000 scale for the eastern half of the ACT by the NSW Government (Jenkins 1993, 2000). The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has been contracted by the ACT Government to fill data gaps for existing ACT soil landscapes and identify new landscapes for the western half of the ACT using standard Australian soil survey and analytical methods. As part of the mapping process, related soil types in each landscape are described and their chemical and physical properties and constraints identified. The Project has progressed and is due for completion in December 2015.</li> <li>ii. EPD and TAMSD have partnered in a project to develop a framework for monitoring reserve condition. This project started in early 2014 and aims to improve the integration of government and community monitoring and research programs.</li> <li>iii. Hydrogeological landscape (HGL) frameworks build on soil landscape mapping by using additional information on geology, lithology, slope, soil depth, vegetation and climate to identify functional units for management within the landscape. The HGL framework concept was originally developed to assist in managing land and water quality issues associated with salinity. The concept has subsequently been broadened to address a wider range of land management issues such as soil degradation (e.g., sodicity, acidity, erosion), soil carbon, biodiversity and vegetation, revegetation and wetland processes (e.g., for hanging swamps, bogs and fens).</li> </ul> <p>Further to this, NSW OEH and partners (NSW Department of Primary Industries, University of Canberra) have been contracted to develop an HGL framework for the ACT. Mapping will help identify key problems in each HGL and management area, and the options available to address them within land use capability. A final HGL GIS product and associated HGL descriptions, maps for salinity management, final linework for management area boundaries and wetland mapping and classification was delivered in June 2015. Preliminary land and soil capability (LSC) attribution for all HGL units and associated management areas is progressing and will be finalised in 2015.</p> <p>The Soil Landscapes and HGL projects will help inform future management of soils including managing erosion risk.</p> <p>The HGL project is funded through the Commonwealth Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund.</p>
EPD	<p><b>5)</b> Management of knowledge and the coordination of scientific research, data collection, monitoring and reporting (including public information) is an area of concern across all themes. A specific recommendation to address this is provided under the recommendations section of the Biodiversity Theme paper.</p>	<p>EPD reported that Scientific research, data and monitoring in relation to biodiversity and conservation continues to be undertaken by the Conservation Research unit. A report was released in 2014 which includes a summary of projects from 2011–2013 which is available on the EPD web site. There are a number of research projects (e.g. kangaroo and fire management) that are coordinated across the Directorates of TAMSD and EPD. Survey data continue to be made publicly available on the ACT Government’s ACTMapi<sup>2</sup> for use by external stakeholders. Recent reports on reptiles and arboreal mammal surveys are being released and made available on the EPD web site.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> ACTMapi is the ACT Government’s interactive mapping service which provides you with a convenient and fast way to search planning maps and associated information by block and section number, street address, division (suburb) or district names; and by other data sets. <a href="http://www.actmap.i.act.gov.au/home.html">http://www.actmap.i.act.gov.au/home.html</a></p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
CMTEDD, EPD, TAMSD and ETD	<p><b>6)</b> Strengthen research, planning and practical projects to enhance biodiversity conservation in the ACT through:</p> <p>i. Developing a biodiversity monitoring strategy, building on existing government and non-government skills, capacity and programs, and focused on periodic reporting. This should include, where appropriate, systematic statistical methodologies which support monitoring of trends and changes to biodiversity assets in the ACT;</p> <p>ii. Funding a dedicated senior officer position to facilitate knowledge development and consolidation, across disparate sources, including more strategic integration within and between government, research/academic institutions and community groups and members. To support this role, systems should be developed to provide wide public access to information to guide research, teaching, planning and practical projects to enhance the sustainability of the ACT and Region;</p>	<p>CMTEDD reported that it has no direct policy responsibility for Biodiversity policy in the ACT.</p> <p>The Directorate’s Regional Development Unit does have responsibility for broader regional collaboration, cross-jurisdictional issues on biodiversity are dealt with by EPD directly.</p> <p>EPD reported that (i.) Strategy 3.5 of the Nature Conservation Strategy makes a commitment to Monitor five priority ecosystems most vulnerable to threats. In order to ensure that appropriate and timely management responses are developed and implemented, the ACT Government will continue to monitor the five priority ecosystems based on a common set of indicators. The <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> commits the Conservator to monitoring biodiversity in the ACT.</p> <p>A Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program (BRAMP) for the period 2015–17 was prepared for release in 2015 to meet the requirements specified under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> as part of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna’s role. The BRAMP sets out a list of activities that supports research and monitoring needs for improved reporting and decision-making for biodiversity and conservation management in the ACT. The BRAMP was released in July 2015 and is available at <a href="http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/review_of_the_nature_conservation_act/biodiversity-research-and-monitoring-program-2015-17">http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/review_of_the_nature_conservation_act/biodiversity-research-and-monitoring-program-2015-17</a></p> <p>i) EPD and TAMSD have partnered to develop the Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program (CEMP). A reserve condition monitoring project officer has been employed for the past six months and has facilitated improved integration across government and community monitoring and research programs.</p> <p>A database of current biodiversity monitoring programs occurring on reserves has been compiled as part of the CEMP monitoring project. This database has informed a gap analysis and review of current reserve monitoring programs and has informed the development of a reserve condition monitoring framework. This framework will link current biodiversity monitoring investments across TAMS, EPD, academic institutions &amp; community groups into a coordinated, strategic reserve condition monitoring program focused on monitoring ecological values of eight broad ecological communities contained within ACT nature reserves. The framework requires the understanding and identification of the key influences of ACT reserve condition (including ecological processes, threat agents, threatening processes, management response, and ecological values). Conceptual models are now being developed for each of the eight ecological communities to demonstrate understanding of the ecological interactions that affect condition of reserves. This will allow us to identify appropriate measurable indicators and monitoring questions.</p> <p>ii) Systems have been utilised to make biodiversity data publicly available including on some of the threatened species and communities. The ACT Government digital mapping system ACTMAPi now includes mapping information of ‘Significant Plants, Animals and Registered Trees’.</p>



Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
	<p>iii. Identifying opportunities to integrate multiple environmental assessments. For example, when monitoring nature reserves for vegetation qualities, land-health indicators and grazing impacts should also be monitored at the same sites. Assessing sites in Canberra Nature Park on a rolling 3-year basis over a 10-year period would provide the basic information for monitoring trends in environmental condition;</p> <p>iv. Publicly reporting decisions and activities relating to individual species, populations and ecological communities in the ACT. This should include both qualitative and quantitative information;</p> <p>v. Reviewing and updating Action Plans where appropriate, and publicly reporting on progress against Action Plan objectives and proposed actions; and</p> <p>vi. Collaborating with NSW Government and regional organisations to contribute to regional and national biodiversity data sets.</p>	<p>iii) The CEMP framework for developing a reserve condition monitoring program for the ACT, will where possible include current monitoring projects that are being undertaken such as the monitoring of some nature reserves through funding available for Kangaroo monitoring and research project. This will complement the current threatened species and ecological community monitoring already undertaken to support the Governments Action Plans and Strategies.</p> <p>A review of current reserve monitoring programs has identified monitoring program synergies to link conservation outcome monitoring to management action monitoring within ACT nature reserves. The reserve condition monitoring project is developing a framework that will link threatening processes to management response and ecological values. Conceptual models formed as part of this framework will inform ecological community monitoring plans for ACT nature reserves.</p> <p>iv) The <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> makes a commitment to making the outcomes of reviews of Action Plans publicly available. Qualitative and quantitative information on ACT threatened species and communities was reported publicly in the Conservation Research report 2011–2013 (<a href="http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr">http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr</a>).</p> <p>v) One Action Plan was reviewed and revised in 2014. This was for the Brush-Tailed Rock Wallaby.</p> <p>A review of the Aquatic Species and Riparian Zone Conservation Strategy (the Strategy) in 2013 has highlighted activities that should lead to more native fish and plants, less erosion, improved water flow and fewer weeds in the longer-term. See <i>Rehabilitating ACT rivers: highlights from the last three years</i>. A review of the Grasslands Strategy is currently in progress.</p> <p>vi) NSW OEH and partners (NSW Department of Primary Industries) have been contracted by the ACT Government to fill data gaps for existing ACT soil landscapes and to develop an HGL framework for the ACT. NSW OEH and EPD continue to work together on consistent vegetation classifications across the region and ACT continues to be an active member in the Australian Alps joint management committee which includes sharing data.</p> <p>EPD has policy and operational leadership for biodiversity and conservation, and regional dataset development. However, ETD reported that the Directorate has constructed areas at Melrose High School and Charnwood-Dunlop Primary School incorporating native species to enhance biodiversity. ETD has also recently completed documentation of a similar area within Monash Primary School to be constructed in the 2015–16 financial year.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EDD, EPD TAMSD and ETD	<p><b>7) Better integrating biodiversity values within urban planning through:</b></p> <p>i. integrating biodiversity corridors and habitat connectivity in the Territory Plan process;</p> <p>ii. identifying, where possible, appropriate clearance thresholds for ecological communities across the ACT to maintain and improve biodiversity values and guide development decisions. To complement this the draft biodiversity offset policy should be finalised to ensure no net loss in ecosystems.</p>	<p>EPD reported that:</p> <p>i) A connectivity layer has been included in ACTMAPi based on a study into woodland connectivity as outlined in the Nature Conservation Strategy and referenced on ACTMAPi. This data has been integrated into the ACT Environmental Offsets Calculator.</p> <p>A new study by CSIRO, Flyways &amp; Byways: Guiding restoration of wildlife corridors: Monitoring connectivity restoration in the Australian Capital Territory, was funded by EPD and will be used to inform a range of programs (see <a href="http://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/672233/FlywaysByways_FinalReport_Doerr-et-al-2014-A10059895.pdf">http://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/672233/FlywaysByways_FinalReport_Doerr-et-al-2014-A10059895.pdf</a>).</p> <p>ii) A position paper <i>ACT Environmental Offsets Policy and Delivery Framework</i> and associated guidelines was released for public consultation in 2014. The ACT Environmental Offsets Policy was finalised in August 2014 and was made a Statutory Policy in April 2015 when changes to the Planning and Development Act 2007 came into force. The Policy is supported by the ACT Environmental Offsets Calculator and Environmental Offsets Assessment Methodology incorporates a range of thresholds for individual species and ecological communities. The ACT Environmental Offsets Calculator and ACT Environmental Offsets Methodology incorporate a range of ecological thresholds for particular species.</p> <p>The Land Development Agency (LDA) has considered biodiversity values within urban planning.</p> <p>The results of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment have been incorporated into delivery of the Land Release Program in the Gungahlin area. This means for example, that Kinlyside will no longer be developed, and that the developable area of Throsby has been reduced.</p> <p>The development of Wright and Coombs in the Molonglo Valley has considered the relationship of the estates with the Molonglo River Corridor. This corridor has important biodiversity and habitat values. A planting guide has been developed in conjunction with Greening Australia to inform residents about appropriate plant species for use in the area. The impact of stormwater runoff on the Molonglo River has also been considered. Innovative Hydrocon™ technology has been used to filter stormwater and improve water quality. Extensive sediment control ponds are also in place and are intended to remain functional until more of the development is completed. This will help prevent sediment entering the Molonglo River.</p> <p>The LDA retains habitat connectivity in a number of ways such as by retaining important trees in pocket parks and creating green corridors along waterways. For example, early planning for Throsby has considered the best way to maintain habitat for the migration of Superb Parrots. This has included consultation with ANU PhD and research students about tree placement, tree species and habitat structures. A number of these PhD students receive funding from the LDA to support their research. Early planning for Throsby has also retained many significant trees and created a green corridor along the central creek line.</p> <p>The retention of open spaces is also important in infill sites. For example in Campbell 5 a large open space area is to be created.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
		<p>In LDA estates where there are threatened or endangered species identified, and these cannot be protected entirely, offset areas are created elsewhere to protect those species. In these cases the development and offset areas must be approved in accordance with Commonwealth and ACT policies and legislation.</p> <p>The provision of bushfire protection zones around the urban edge is undertaken, as much as is practical, within the existing development footprint.</p> <p>EDD reported that the Directorate is committed to delivering against the Environmental Offsets Policy and continues to work with EPD to facilitate its policy. The provision of bushfire protection zones around the urban edge is undertaken, as much as is practical, within the existing development footprint.</p> <p>EPD reported that TAMSD has partnered with their Directorate (EPD) in the preparation of the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Concept Plan to ensure that biodiversity objectives for the Reserve are considered in planning the proposed East Lake residential development, and vice versa.</p> <p>EPD also reported that Parks and Conservation Services (PCS) continues to roll out a multi-year Million Trees initiative throughout the Murrumbidgee River Corridor. Planting of tube stock, weed spraying and ground preparation has occurred along multiple sites from Woodstock Nature Reserve, Lower Molonglo Nature Reserve, Pine Island and Tharwa area. This program concentrates on the connectivity of new plantings to existing corridors and the integration with other broader weed management projects.</p> <p>Urban Treescapes coordinated approximately 2400 tree plantings throughout Canberra's urban forest during 2014–15. In addition Urban Treescapes received approximately 8000 trees as gifted assets from green and brown field developments and Roads Capital Works projects. These trees are primarily located on public unleased land particularly naturestrips and urban open space.</p> <p>New nature reserves have been established with Canberra Nature Park that extend existing reserves and improve connectivity within the ACT Reserve System. This includes the extension of the Mulligans Flat, Gorooyarroo and Isaacs Ridge Nature Reserves.</p> <p>ETD further reported that their Directorate has constructed areas at Melrose High School and Charnwood-Dunlop Primary School incorporating native species to enhance biodiversity. The Directorate has also recently completed documentation of a similar area within Monash Primary School to be constructed in the 2015–16 financial year.</p>



Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD, TAMSD and ETD	<p><b>8)</b> Improve transparency of biodiversity integration into legislative and planning frameworks through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. including objectives for the protection of biodiversity and a definition for ‘biodiversity’ as part of the <i>Nature Conservation (NC) Act 1980</i> review;</li> <li>ii. aligning provisions in the Environment Protection Act 1997 and Planning and Development Act with any relevant changes to the NC Act including biodiversity definitions and reviewing the definition of environmental harm to determine whether unauthorised loss of biodiversity should be included as an offence;</li> <li>iii. assessing the effectiveness of managing threatening processes through Action Plans and determining if management of key threatening processes needs strengthening through listing under the NC Act.</li> </ul>	<p>EPD reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> includes objectives for biodiversity and a definition of biodiversity. Biodiversity is however a term which does not include abiotic elements of ecosystems so the term nature is also used.</li> <li>ii) provisions within the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> have been aligned as much as possible with the Environment Protection Act. This has primarily been through the alignment of some penalty provisions for clearing and damaging land in reserves. There are a range of provisions in the Act relating to offences for the loss of biodiversity. The penalties for clearing or damaging land in Reserves are set at similar levels to environmental harm under the Environment Protection Act.</li> <li>iii) Key threatening processes are able to be listed under the Nature Conservation Act. The criteria are proposed to be aligned with those of the Commonwealth.</li> </ul> <p>Further to this, EPD reported that the Biodiversity — Territory Plan Section is currently working on two draft variations to the Territory Plan, DV297 and DV319, which are considered relevant to these recommendations. DV297 is to implement biodiversity offsets based on the Commonwealth approval under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>. DV319 is to implement biodiversity outcomes from the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.</p> <p>EPD also noted that a draft framework for monitoring reserve condition has been prepared that requires the development of monitoring plans for eight ecological communities across the ACT. These plans require the identification and understanding of key influences of reserve condition including: ecological values, threat agents, threatening processes, ecological processes, and management response. Once developed, these plans will report on effectiveness of management actions in achieving conservation objectives. The plans for grassland and aquatic ecosystems are well developed.</p> <p>ETD reported that their directorate has constructed external learning environments at Melrose High School and Charnwood-Dunlop Primary School incorporating native species to enhance biodiversity. ETD has also recently completed documentation for the construction of an external learning environment at Monash Primary School in the 2015–16 financial year incorporating native species.</p>
Health	<p><b>9)</b> To improve knowledge of our indoor air quality, the Chief Health Officer should consider the health impact of indoor air quality in the ACT in the 2014 Chief Health Officer Report.</p>	<p>Health Directorate reported that the Chief Health Officer decided against including health impact of indoor air quality in the ACT in the 2014 Chief Health Officer Report. It is not considered a health priority at present.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014-15 directorate update
Health and EPD	<p><b>10)</b> Improve local air quality outdoors through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. requiring air quality assessments in all new greenfield developments, to identify and manage air emissions, potentially detrimental to human health and the environment;</li> <li>ii. installing and operating a second performance air monitoring station to ensure that the ACT is compliant with NEPM standards; and</li> <li>iii determining the feasibility including costs of mobile monitoring of appropriate ambient air quality NEPM standards at locations in and around Canberra.</li> </ul>	<p>Health Directorate reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ACT Health supports the recommendation. EPD is responsible.</li> <li>ii. The Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) National Environmental Protection Measure (NEPM) Performance Monitoring Station (PMS) at Florey was fully operational as of 28 February 2014. ACT is now compliant with the AAQ NEPM.</li> <li>iii. This recommendation is not supported. It would be cost-prohibitive and the quality of obtained data would be insufficient for any meaningful evaluation/policy making.</li> </ul>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD, ETD and CMTEDD	<p><b>11)</b> As a priority the ACT Government develop and implement pathways to achieve carbon neutrality in ACT Government buildings and services. These should be implemented through the second Action Plan of Weathering the Change and include monitoring, evaluation of actions and annual public reporting on progress.</p>	<p>CMTEDD reported that it has no direct responsibility for the ACT Government’s carbon neutral framework. CMTEDD is involved in cross-agency working groups relating to carbon-neutrality of the ACT Government, but agency responsibility sits with EPD. Work on implementing the Carbon Neutral Government Framework is ongoing and CMTEDD engages in this process.</p> <p>EPD also reported that the ACT Government endorsed the Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) Framework in 2012, adopting a target of carbon neutrality in government operations 2020. The first annual report on the implementation of the Framework was presented to Strategic Board in June 2014 with follow up presentation made in August and November 2014.</p> <p>The CNG Framework was publicly released in August 2014. In the first instance, it focuses on implementing cost effective energy management and efficiency initiatives. Directorates have access to the CNG Fund in order to support emissions reduction activities under the Framework. The Fund has approved loans of \$9.7 million for 17 proposals since 2010. Directorates repay loans with the energy bill savings resulting from their projects. For example, the installation of LEDs for internal lighting at more than 90 government buildings and schools, will have an estimated cost saving of \$1.3 million per year, reducing electricity use by 20–30% at most sites.</p> <p>A trial of carbon budgets for Directorates commenced in July 2015. The trial focuses on setting performance indicators for priority sites. These indicators are reported against on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>EPD is leading the implementation of the CNG Framework, as part of the ACT climate change strategy, AP2. An overview of the CNG Framework is available on the EPD intranet. Progress reporting is ongoing.</p> <p>ETD reported that the Directorate has continued to implement energy conservation measures in ACT public schools in accordance with its obligations under Actions 20–25 of the Carbon Neutral Government Framework including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• energy efficient lighting at 25 schools;</li> <li>• solar hot water systems at two schools;</li> <li>• power factor correction equipment;</li> <li>• 70kW solar photovoltaic systems at Neville Bonner School and Franklin Early Childhood School;</li> <li>• 176kW solar PV system at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning;</li> <li>• recommissioning the hydrotherapy pool at Turner Primary School;</li> <li>• ceiling insulation at North Ainslie School.</li> </ul>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014-15 directorate update
EPD, CMTEDD, TAMSD and ETD	<p><b>12)</b> The ACT Government develop and implement a pathway to achieve the legislated climate change emission reduction and renewable energy targets. This should be implemented through the second Action Plan of Weathering the Change and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. focus on reducing emissions from transport and our buildings (especially improving energy efficiency of old building stock);</li> <li>ii. responsive regulatory, governance and investment arrangements for renewable energy;</li> <li>iii. continued engagement with ACT community; and</li> <li>iv. regular monitoring, evaluation of actions and public reporting on progress against the targets.</li> </ul>	<p>EPD reported that the ACT's second climate change policy and action plan AP2, 2012 addresses all these issues. The progress since implementation commenced in 2013 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The combined actions in <i>Transport for Canberra</i> are designed to improve vehicle efficiency and increase use of walking, cycling and public transport use. The upcoming Low Emission Vehicle Strategy will build upon the ACT Government's Green Vehicle Duty Scheme to further encourage the uptake of low emissions vehicles. The Zero Emissions Building Policy was included as Action 4 of the ACT climate change strategy, AP2, to provide a clear strategy for improving building energy performance to 2020 and beyond. Subsequent to the release of AP2 in 2012, the ACT Government has commenced a review of the Building Act 2004 — a full policy review of ACT building regulation system. This review subsumes Action 4 by integrating elements of AP2 and other government strategies that affect or require new or amended building standards.</li> <li>ii. ACT is currently on-track to reach its 90 per cent by 2020 renewable energy target. In 2013-14, 18.6% of the ACT's electricity supply came from renewable sources. In 2014-15, there was 45MW of small and medium scale solar electricity systems installed in ACT. After the successful projects in the second wind auction begin generating by 2018, the ACT will have secured renewable energy supply equal to 80% of its forecast 2020 electricity demand; The Government has committed to a number of large-scale renewable projects through an innovative reverse auction process, which won a gold Banksia Award in 2014. This includes the 20MW Royalla solar farm which has been operational since August 2014; a further 20MW of large-scale solar expected to become operational in 2016; and three successful proponents of the 200MW Wind Auction announced on 6 February 2015. In addition, a second 200MW Wind Auction is due to close 30 September 2015, and proposals for the 1MW Community Solar Auction and 50MW Next Generation Solar Expression of Interest are currently being assessed. Renewable energy jobs in the ACT have increased over 400 per cent over the past five years — a rate of growth four times higher than any other Australian state or territory. The Renewable Energy Industry Development Strategy announced on 1 May 2015 brings together a range of existing government renewable energy initiatives (such as the \$1.2m Renewable Energy Innovation Fund, and the \$50m next generation solar initiative) with new initiatives (such as the development of a physical business-research precinct with ANU, and renewable energy test-berth facilities) to accelerate the expansion of the renewable energy industry in the ACT.</li> <li>iii. Engagement with the community has been ongoing through individual AP2 actions and the Actsmart program. To inform the Community Engagement Strategy on climate change (AP2 action 5), a community survey of 1200 households was undertaken in 2013. The survey found a high degree of support for local action on climate change but a lower level of awareness of ACT Government climate change policies. In February 2015, the ACT Government launched the online sustainability portal, to allow the public to access information on a range of sustainability issues, including climate change.</li> <li>iv. The ACT Government releases an inventory of ACT greenhouse gas emissions each year, as required under the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010</i>. An interim inventory for 2012-13 and 2013-14 was released in April 2015. It found that ACT has met its first legislated emissions reduction target of per capita emissions peaking by 2013. Territory emissions fell by 8 per cent between 2011-12 and 2013-14, in line with the projections presented in AP2.</li> </ul> <p>The six monthly progress updates on the 18 AP2 actions is published on the EPD web page <a href="http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cc/what-government-is-doing/emissions-and-mitigation">http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cc/what-government-is-doing/emissions-and-mitigation</a></p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD, ETD, JACSD and CMTEDD	<p><b>13)</b> Develop a climate change adaptation planning and implementation response through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. building on existing and undertaking additional sector vulnerability risk assessments;</li> <li>ii. establishing a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement methodology and framework as a consistent guide for Government, to develop, progress and report against adaptation planning; and</li> <li>iii. integrating adaptation planning outcomes into existing ACT planning and management frameworks.</li> </ul>	<p>CMTEDD reported that it does not have direct responsibility for climate change policy. <i>CMTEDD Regional Development Unit</i> facilitates engagement between relevant NSW and ACT Government directorates.</p> <p>EPD reported that work across government on climate change adaptation has been progressing since May 2014 when the Ministerial Statement (AP2 action 16) on climate change adaptation was released. The draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is scheduled for release for public comment and finalisation in 2015/16.</p> <p>This draft strategy (policy with actions) has been developed based on the draft adaptation framework published by the Australian Government in 2013 and using an integrated vulnerability and risk assessment (IRVA) method that is consistent with that applied across New South Wales. This work was done through the project <i>Enabling Adaptation</i>, which involved all ACT government agencies. This whole of government project served to raise awareness of the climate change projections released in 2014, based on the NSW and Region Climate Model (NRCliM).</p> <p>Sectoral vulnerability risk assessments have been undertaken by Health, Emergency Services and strategic planning in EPD.</p> <p>The ACT approach to adaptation is consistent with the draft framework published by the Australian Government in 2013 and the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) work.</p> <p>The ACT Planning Strategy (2012) incorporates consideration of climate change adaptation. Changes to the Territory Plan are anticipated to follow from the completion of the adaptation strategy.</p> <p>Climate change adaptation planning is led by EPD, and will be cross referenced in the Statement of Planning Intent. Climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives are incorporated into centre master plans.</p> <p>ETD reported that the Directorate participated in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy consultation workshops and provided information on policies and programs in place with relevance to the Strategy.</p>
CMTEDD, EP and ETD	<p><b>14)</b> Develop a regional approach to planning for climate change. This needs to be done in partnership with NSW Government, local councils and regional organisations. Key areas of focus should include opportunities for renewable energy development, water security, urban and regional planning, transport management and adaptation of ecosystem services to climate change.</p>	<p>CMTEDD reported that it does not have direct policy responsibility for climate change. <i>CMTEDD Regional Development Unit</i> facilitates engagement between relevant NSW and ACT Government directorates.</p> <p>EPD reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ACT and NSW in December 2012 defined the focus areas for working together. Implementing AP2 actions for renewable energy and the new adaptation strategy have and are taking a regional approach. The ACT is partnering with NSW's Office for Environment and Heritage (OEH) to ensure cross border harmonisation on climate change adaptation across sectoral issues.</p> <p>Through the ACT Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change Project, EPD is consulting and collaborating extensively on the application of spatial planning products and decision support tools to guide adaptation planning for the NRM sector. Ongoing collaborations include work with regional stakeholders from NSW (e.g. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), NSW Department of Primary Industry (DPI), NSW South East Local Land Services, NSW and ACT Regional Climate Model Project (NARClIM)) as well as Commonwealth (e.g. Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Science (ABARES), Bureau of Meteorology Climate Information Services, CSIRO National Climate Projections Program (NCP), CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship (CAF), CSIRO Land and Water Terrain Analysis Team).</p> <p>TAMSD reported that CMTEDD has supported regional approaches to these matters though engagement on the ACT-NSW on Regional Collaboration and through the ('C Plus 1') group. This group includes Canberra plus those councils within an approximate one hour commute from Canberra ('C Plus 1') — Queanbeyan, Yass, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Upper Lachlan, Palerang, Cooma-Monaro.</p> <p>ETD reported that, consistent with the December 2012 MoU, the Directorate works closely with the NSW Department of Education and Communities in sharing and analysing cross border student data that supports school planning.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD, EDD and ETD	<p><b>15)</b> Finalise and implement the draft ACT Planning Strategy to provide an integrated approach to future planning. Particular attention should be paid to:</p> <p>i. determining indicators and measures for urban quality in the ACT that includes the benefits provided by green infrastructure and access to open space; and</p> <p>ii. developing greenfield and infill targets, which take into account both the need for green infrastructure as well as strengthening a sense of community and self containment.</p>	<p>EPD reported that The ACT Planning Strategy (Strategy) became effective from 1 September 2012. The Strategy replaced The Canberra Spatial Plan 2004 as the key strategic plan that guides spatial planning and development and management of the ACT to help achieve the economic, cultural and environmental aspirations of its people. It sets out clear actions under nine strategies to deliver five outcomes, each of which reflect the intent of The Canberra Plan. Implementing this whole-of-government policy involves considerable cross-agency co-ordination across all directorates. The Strategy is a companion document to other key policy documents, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport for Canberra, 2012;</li> <li>• Weathering the Change — Action Plan 2, 2012;</li> <li>• Nature Conservation Strategy, 2013; and</li> <li>• Striking the balance — draft ACT Water Strategy, 2014.</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy calls for master plans to be prepared for centres to provide direction for future change and growth, including sustainable design outcomes. Master plans for the Tuggeranong town centre, four group centres and the Pialligo rural village have been completed. Weston group centres and Oaks Estate Master Plans have been endorsed. EPD is currently working on a number master plans under different levels of development. These include Kippax, Belconnen, Woden and Mawson, Curtin and Calwell centres.</p> <p>The LDA has developed both Greenfield and infill developments. In 2012–13, there were more LDA residential and mixed use projects reported in infill locations than in Greenfield locations. Many of these projects were single block or section releases in established areas, however a number of projects were larger and more complex. For example Campbell 5 is located in the established suburb of Campbell. It is seeking to increase density in the area and along Constitution Avenue, while also maintaining high quality public open spaces.</p> <p>In LDA developments green infrastructure is considered through the provision of public open spaces and the delivery of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) infrastructure. For example in Coombs a number of local parks are being delivered, relationships with the Molonglo River corridor are being considered, and a green corridor along the former Uriarra Road alignment is being maintained. Another example of the delivery of WSUD infrastructure is the installation of the innovative Stratacell™ technology at the Amaroo Group Centre.</p> <p>The LDA runs the Mingle community program in a number of LDA estates including Bonner, Wright and Coombs. The Mingle program includes a range of events such as Christmas lights competitions, brunch in the park, rugby skills training sessions, tree plantings and trivia nights. Mingle aims to strengthen the sense of community in new estates as residents move in.</p> <p>The LDA, in conjunction with EDD, also undertakes a range of community engagement activities.</p> <p>ETD reported that the Directorate supports the ACT Planning Strategy by working closely across government in planning for new public and non-government schools. ETD actively contributes to master planning processes and activities.</p>



Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
CMTEDD, EDD, and CSD	<p><b>16)</b> Develop a housing strategy to address the needs of changing population demographics into the future.</p>	<p>CMTEDD reported that it does not have direct policy responsibility for housing policy.</p> <p>EPD reported that during 2013–14, the Government continued implementation of its Affordable Housing Action Plan, which is now in its third phase. Affordability for renters and homebuyers has continued to improve. Through its land release activities, the Government has continued to bring a diverse range of housing options to the market, including multiunit and detached housing choices in new suburbs as well as infill sites in established communities.</p> <p>The Omnibus Territory Plan Variation process has involved progressing zone changes for 17 sites across the Territory, most of which will permit residential development. These sites include the ageing public housing multi unit sites in Lyons, Griffith, Narrabundah and Red Hill. Existing public housing tenants who live on these sites will be progressively moved into more appropriate accommodation which is being built as part of the Public Housing Renewal program. The ACT Government is working closely with existing public housing tenants on these sites to match them with housing in locations that best suits their needs. If the rezoning proceeds, the land will then be released and developed, providing a diversity of housing typologies in existing suburbs which will meet the needs of changing population demographics in these suburbs into the future.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD, TAMSD and ETD	<p><b>17)</b> Finalise and implement the draft Sustainable Transport Action Plan to provide an integrated approach to transport and urban planning. In doing so:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. obtain additional non-work related travel data, similar to the annual Sydney Household Travel Survey, to ensure a more complete understanding of Canberra’s transport habits;</li> <li>2. focus on strategies and targets to improve access to sustainable forms of transport outside of transport corridors;</li> <li>3. develop targets for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. reducing in greenhouse gas emissions from transport;</li> <li>ii. increase sustainable transport usage for non-work travel to complement the existing targets for work travel; and</li> <li>iii. track progress towards Sustainable Transport targets on an annual basis.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>EPD reported that the Government released <i>Transport for Canberra</i> in March 2012, which supersedes the earlier draft Sustainable Transport Action Plan. <i>Transport for Canberra</i> includes 34 actions and monitoring and reporting framework that aim to improve the sustainability of Canberra’s transport system, alongside goals of efficiency, active travel, accessibility and social inclusion, safety and integration with land use planning.</p> <p>EPD reported that in relation to items i) and iii), budget funding has been requested but not provided to allow EPD to undertake regular household travel surveys and otherwise improve data to monitor progress around sustainable transport. We note that the combined actions in <i>Transport for Canberra</i> are projected, in aggregate, to reduce the transport-specific emissions in the ACT in line with targets in AP2.</p> <p>The 2015 update to the <i>Transport for Canberra</i> Report will highlight initiatives and progress the Government has made to reduce ACT transport emissions. The Report Card is expected to be released in September 2015.</p> <p>In relation to 2), initiatives currently underway that relate to improving sustainable transport outside of transport corridors include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Active Streets Program including working with schools to identify those activities that support increased active travel (Health Directorate)</li> <li>ii. Review of community transport completed in mid 2014 (EPD) and community transport coordination project (TAMSD)</li> <li>iii. Coverage study/review into transport disadvantage in the Territory, completed in 2012 (EPD), and informing bus network improvements accounting for walkability (TAMSD)</li> <li>iv. The Flexible Transport Office, incorporating the Flexible Bus Service, The Community Transport Coordination Centre and the Indigenous Community Bus Program are in their second full year of funding (TAMSD)</li> <li>v. Strategic cycle network plan (EPD) and updated Design Standards for active travel (TAMSD), both to be completed in 2015</li> <li>vi. Development of an Active Travel Framework with targeted actions to deliver higher travel to work and non-work trips mode share by active travel (EPD, 2015–16)</li> <li>vii. Building an Integrated Transport Network — Parking (Parking Action Plan) which includes a range of initiatives designed to make parking more accessible</li> <li>viii. Parking Offset Scheme to allow developers to offset parking requirements by providing on-site active travel options or paying into a fund (EPD-led, 2015–16);</li> <li>ix. Low Emission Vehicles and ACT Sustainable Fleet strategy (EPD, 2015–16) to made car-based transport more efficient (e.g. better vehicles, higher occupancies, car sharing)</li> <li>x. Vehicles Emissions Reduction Scheme which provides a financial incentive for purchases of low emission light vehicles (EPD, 2015–16).</li> </ol> <p>TAMSD will work with the newly formed Active Travel Office to continue to promote the integrated planning and delivery of active travel in the ACT.</p> <p>ETD reported that the Directorate supports the implementation of <i>Transport for Canberra</i> and its associated activities. ETD has worked closely with ACT Health and Territory and Municipal Services Directorates to implement the Ride or Walk to School Program, which encourages greater levels of active travel to and from ACT schools. ETD also supported the development of the ACT Government Active Travel Framework, which commits the Directorate to increasing active travel to school for students and teachers.</p>



Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD, TAMSD and ETD	<p><b>18)</b> Finalise and implement a new ACT Waste Management Strategy with a focus on reducing waste generation, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. examine and implement options for diverting wastes from landfill to higher order beneficial reuse opportunities. These actions should be measured, recorded and reported publicly;</li> <li>ii. focusing community education on the link between consumption and waste; and</li> <li>iii. targeting specific programs to reduce waste from the construction and demolition, and commercial and industrial sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>TAMSD reported that the Directorate is working with EPD to provide advice to Government on how best to achieve the resource recovery targets in the ACT Waste Management Strategy. ACT NOWaste education marketing focuses on recycling rather than waste avoidance, however it does touch on this through the school education programs. ACT NOWaste finalised a new licence agreement to enable the continued recovery of material from construction and demolition waste within the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre.</p> <p>Pruning from trees and shrubs in the urban landscape are mulched for reuse on shrub beds and around tree plantings or disposed of as green waste at the Government Recycling Facility.</p> <p>EPD reported that The ACT Waste Management Strategy was finalised in 2011 and the ban on light weight Plastic Bags was introduced in November 2011. The review of the plastic bag ban undertaken in 2014 found high community support and a reduction in plastic in the waste stream.</p> <p>The Actsmart business recycling program gives advice and incentives to change behaviour and reduce waste from the commercial and industrial sectors.</p> <p>Actsmart and national product stewardship programs currently divert wastes from landfill to higher order reuse. The Actsmart program facilitates the recovery of batteries for recycling. More broadly, the ACT Government is supporting the establishment of a number of national product stewardship programs in the ACT. e-waste was the first of these, with the ACT setting up the first two free electronic waste drop centres in Australia.</p> <p>Energy from waste options were investigated under the ACT climate change strategy, AP2, with an Expression Of Interest process conducted in 2013.</p> <p>However, due to global financial conditions and commodity markets, an agreement with SITA Australia to construct a facility to sort and recycle material from commercial and industrial waste streams has now lapsed. The 2015–16 budget committed \$2.8 million over two years to explore approaching the market for options on the full range of possible material recovery and recycling activities. The outcome would maximise the economic recovery of materials and minimise residual waste, enabling the ACT to achieve its 2025 target of over 90% resource recovery.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD, ETD	<p><b>19)</b> Strengthen heritage protection in the ACT by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. developing an action plan for heritage which addresses the backlog of heritage nominations and recognises key future sites for protection;</li> <li>ii. strengthening audit, compliance and enforcement processes in line with recommendations of the Marshall report;</li> <li>iii. (not accepted) developing a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Government to protect assets, subject to Australian Government planning approvals, on the ACT Heritage Register;</li> <li>iv. promoting ACT heritage values as a part of the Canberra 2013 Centenary celebrations.</li> </ul>	<p>EPD noted that recommendation iii was not accepted). However, the Directorate reported against recommendations i, ii and iv that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ACT Heritage, together with the ACT Heritage Council, have prepared a priority list to reduce the backlog of nominations to the ACT Heritage Register. From a backlog of approximately 210 nominations in 2011, 79 decisions on provisional registration (including decisions not to provisionally register) have been made, and there have been 12 decisions on full registration. Between 2012 and 2014 7 new nominations to the register have been received. A number of probable duplications of nominations have also been identified. The backlog of nominations has been reduced to approximately 173.</li> <li>ii. Two officers in ACT Heritage are now trained in Government Investigations. ACT Heritage has developed a compliance enforcement policy to guide appropriate action to be taken in relation to compliance matters. This has enabled ACT Heritage to take responsibility for compliance investigations and enforcement processes in relation to the Heritage Act 2004.</li> <li>iv. The theme for the 2013 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival was <i>Milestones</i> to promote the Centenary of Canberra. The Centenary logo, banners and bunting was used during the festival. A total of 125 events involving 75 groups and individuals from the private, government and community sectors. The Festival included 27 new event organisers compared to the previous year. Eleven ACT Heritage Grants were showcased during the festival. Special assistance funding was made available to seven event organisers to lift their profile in the centenary year by ‘thinking differently’ and growing and diversifying audiences.</li> </ul> <p>The 2014 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival included over 110 events, activities and exhibitions and involved over 60 groups and individuals from the government, community and private sectors. The Festival’s theme was ‘Journeys’.</p> <p>The 2015 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival was held from 11–26 April. The program included 140 diverse events and involved 59 groups from the private, government and community sectors. The theme of the Festival was ‘Conflict and Compassion’, aligning with the centenary of the ANZAC.</p> <p>ETD reported that the Directorate worked closely with Heritage ACT to ensure external works to the front of Telopea Park School constructed in 2014–15 supported the heritage value of the school.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014–15 directorate update
EPD, Health D, CMTEDD, ETD and JACSD	<p><b>20)</b> Align and integrate climate adaptation planning and disaster risk management where appropriate. This should include lessons learned from changes to fire management.</p>	<p>CMTEDD reported that it does not have direct responsibility for climate adaptation planning or policy. The last Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Framework for Infrastructure was released in 2012 and there are currently no plans to update this. CMTEDD also noted that work currently being undertaken by EPD regarding climate adaptation may be relevant to this recommendation.</p> <p>EPD reported that the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is currently under development. The draft strategy will reference the suite of ACT government policies and action plans, and acknowledge and incorporate the roles and work of other agencies.</p> <p>JACSD reported that ESA has incorporated climate change considerations into the current draft of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and will continue to consider climate change in other planning and risk mitigation processes. The Emergency Management, Risk and Spatial Services Group at ESA provides for risk analysis, strategic and operational planning, and specialist mapping and technical support across operational services of the ESA. The group provides technical and policy advice on broader emergency management issues affecting the ESA, e.g. climate change, national arrangements, spatial and information technology, and knowledge enhancement. The group is also responsible for the coordination of the National Disaster Resilience program.</p> <p>ACT Health reported that although the Directorate supports the recommendation, this is a whole-of-government issue and has little direct health program input.</p> <p>ETD reported that the Directorate is guided by the information provided by Justice and Community Services and Health Directorates when developing its emergency management policies and processes in relation to environmental and climatic conditions.</p>

Directorate	Recommendation from 2011 SoER	2014-15 directorate update
EPD, CMTEDD and ETD	<p><b>21)</b> In collaboration with NSW Government and local councils, develop a regional approach to planning and risk management to address future challenges of population and climate change.</p>	<p>CMTEDD reported that it does not have policy responsibility for climate adaptation planning and policy. <i>CMTEDD Regional Development Unit</i> facilitates engagement between relevant NSW and ACT Government directorates.</p> <p>EPD reported that the adaptation strategy and the AP2 action 4 Community Engagement Strategy is taking a regional approach. This work has commenced (refer to items 11, 12, 13, 14, 20).</p> <p>TAMSD reported that CMTEDD has been working closely with EPD to coordinate input from other ACT Government agencies in the development of a regional strategic plan. This plan is intended to cover the growth challenges affecting the region and sustainable development across the region to manage growth and change. Liaison to agree the plan is ongoing.</p> <p>ETD Reported that the Directorate participated in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy consultation workshops and provided information on policies and programs in place with relevance to the Strategy.</p>
EPD, TAMSD, ETD and CMTEDD	<p><b>22)</b> Strengthen community engagement in sustainability by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertaking research on attitudes to sustainability and consumption patterns and behaviours. This could be done through regular community surveys similar to the annual NSW 'Who cares about the environment?' with the outcomes informing focus areas for community engagement; and</li> <li>2. Fostering behaviour change through community engagement to reduce our ecological footprint with a particular focus on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. sustainable transport; and</li> <li>ii. impacts of consumption.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>CMTEDD reported that it does not have direct responsibility for sustainability policy.</p> <p>EPD reported that the work on the Sustainable futures series was completed in 2009/10 and fed into the Time to Talk: Canberra 2030, in 2010, the ACT's most extensive community consultation campaign. Sustainability issues were progressed with preparation of the draft ACT Planning Strategy in 2011 and the finals in 2012. <i>Transport for Canberra</i> also involved details community engagement around sustainable transport. Ongoing projects, including Capital Metro Light rail, City Plan and the Light Rail Master Plan, will continue this engagement.</p> <p>TAMSD also reported that EPD periodically commissions surveys to research community views and issues about climate change and sustainability in the ACT and that the ACT Government is supporting opportunities for food production by providing suitable locations, such as the Organic Demonstration Garden in Turner.</p> <p>Further to this, TAMSD reported that periodically CMTEDD facilitates this consultation through the 'Time to Talk' consultation process.</p> <p>ETD reported that the Directorate has not undertaken any community consultation on sustainability.</p>

#### **B2.1.4 Information to be included in agency annual reports**

This section of the report provides information against s.23 of the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* which requires that all reports prepared by an agency under the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* for a financial year must include details of:

##### **a) Any request under s.18 (assistance to commissioner) received by the agency during the year.**

All directorates were required to provide information on actions they had taken during the 2014–15 financial year in relation to recommendations in the 2011 ACT SoER. Letters were sent to all ACT directorate heads requesting this information and a nominated contact person.

##### **b) Any assistance provided by the agency during the year in response to the request.**

All directorates responded appropriately to the request and their responses are presented in Section B2.1.3 of this annual report.

##### **c) Any investigation by the Commissioner during the year in relation to any activity of the agency.**

There were no such investigations during the 2014–15 financial year.

##### **d) Any recommendation made by the Commissioner during the year following an investigation of the agency's activities.**

No such recommendations were made during the 2014–15 financial year.

##### **e) Any action the agency has taken during the year in relation to the recommendation.**

No actions were necessary in response to any recommendation made during the 2014–15 financial year.

#### **B2.2 Activities under the objects of the Act<sup>2</sup>**

##### ***Advocacy and community engagement***

Our Office undertook a variety of community engagements with a wide range of stakeholders including academics, government, business and community members. Key advocacy and community engagement activities undertaken by the Office over 2014–15 include:

- presenting to students at Lake Tuggeranong College to assist with the preparation of their Parliament of Youth Green papers <https://laketuggeranongcollege.wordpress.com/2015/03/06/ltc-students-prepare-for-the-2015-parliament-of-youth-on-sustainability/>, and judging a student poster competition for the Parliament of Youth project on sustainability as part of the SEE-Change 2020 Vision project;
- collaboration with the ACT Children & Young People Commissioner (CYP) to plan and conduct a two-day consultation in March 2015 with 81 Year 4 students at Ngunnawal Primary School. The students demonstrated a strong interest in protecting the environment, and had many innovative ideas about how we could do this. A report of the consultation will be published by the CYPC and the Office in mid-2015;
- meetings, presentations and engagement with academics and students as part of project and course work, at both the Australian National University and the University of Canberra;
- meetings with private sector and community organisations including the ACT and Region Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of Canberra, the Conservation Council of Canberra. The Office maintained contact with, the Environmental Defender's Office, the Friends of Grasslands, the Friends of the Aranda Bushland, and the ACT Equestrian Association; and
- progressing ecologically sustainable development through an exchange of learning and ideas with other national and international jurisdictions:
  - ▣ New Zealand Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, the Hungarian Ombudsman for Future Generations, Welsh Commissioner for Sustainable Futures and the Canadian Auditor-General;

<sup>2</sup> *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act, 1993*

presenting at an international ESD conference and roundtable in Wales, and to EPD staff, on ESD and the value and role of the Office as an independent body.

### a) Implementation Status Report 2014

The Office prepared the first of three Implementation Status Reports (ISR) for *Weathering the Change* Action Plan 2 (AP2). This assessment was conducted during 2014–15 with the final report delivered to Minister Corbell on 16 December 2014 and made publicly available in March 2015. AP2 (Chapter 11: Monitoring and Reporting) provides for the Office to triennially (2014, 2017, 2020) assess whether the ACT Government is reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change and leading a sustainable future. The assessment is made against the following questions:

1. How are we tracking against sector greenhouse gas reduction targets?
2. What new opportunities or challenges have emerged?
3. What are the implications for the Territory from developments in climate science?
4. How fit for purpose are the Territory's climate change adaptation policies?
5. How do the Territory's targets and actions stand in relation to developments at the national or international level?

The 2014 Implementation Status Report found that AP2, combined with the greenhouse gas reduction targets prescribed by the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*, positions the ACT among the world's most progressive jurisdictions in terms of mitigating the impacts of climate change.

For the Territory to continue adapting to climate change and to lead a sustainable future, it is vital that climate change policies, including AP2 and the actions it contains, are continually reviewed and updated. Work done by the Office in preparing the 2014 Implementation Status Report provides the basis for future iterations of AP2. The experience of preparing the report has also provided a base of knowledge and experience that will allow the Office to work with the Territory to design terms of reference to ensure the next status report is relevant, effective and clear.

### b) Monitoring progress

The Commissioner acknowledges the work done by the ACT Government in developing policies and plans on key issues including:

- *ACT Nature Conservation Act 2014*;
- *ACT Environment Protection Amendment Act 2014*;
- the Appropriation (Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication) Bill 2014–15 (passed by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2014);
- Water Resources (Catchment Management Coordination Group) Amendment Bill 2015;
- ACT Environmental Offsets Policy (2015);
- ACT Environmental Offsets Policy Delivery Framework (2015);
- work on the Cultural Heritage Reporting Policy, (2015), ACT Heritage council;
- work on the Draft ACT Biosecurity Strategy 2015–25;
- progress on the Canberra Light Rail Project including the approved business case (September 2014) for the first stage of Canberra's light rail network;
- progressing stage one of the Australian Government-funded Basin priority project;
- master plan preparation and community consultation for Woden and Mawson; Oaks Estate Master Plan; and Weston Group Centre Master Plan; and
- delivery of projects under the Healthy and Smart program, including Transport for Canberra — Walking and cycling infrastructure, drinking water and refill stations.

In 2014–15 the Office continued to monitor the progress towards completing and implementing these policies, programs and strategies. The Office will also continue to track and report on the implementation of specific recommendations made in previous SoERs, through our annual reports.

## B3 Scrutiny

Agencies must report on progress during the reporting period in relation to undertakings made in reports that are produced by entities charged with responsibility for scrutiny, including the Auditor-General, Ombudsman and Legislative Assembly Committees.

Table 9 presents the Commissioner’s response to a request for information by the *Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services* on progress made by the Commissioner in relation to defining ecologically sustainable development for annual reporting requirements.

**Table 9: Scrutiny reporting response**

Reporting entity	Report number	Title of the report	Date tabled/released
Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services	7	Report on annual and financial reports 2013–14	March 2015
Recommendation Number	4.26		
Summary of the recommendation	The Committee recommends that the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment update the committee during its 2014–15 annual report hearings on progress on defining ecologically sustainable development for annual reporting requirements.		
Action taken during the reporting period	<p>Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) is defined in the <i>Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993</i>, as amended in 2012, as:</p> <p>“the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes achievable through implementation of the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the precautionary principle;</li> <li>(b) the inter-generational equity principle;</li> <li>(c) conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity;</li> <li>(d) improved valuation and pricing of environmental resources.” <p>Operationalising ESD as defined, as an effective component of planning and reporting, including in ACT directorate annual reports, is no easy task.</p> <p>Acknowledging this complexity, and the need to work across all ACT directorates, the Office has an ongoing project to increase the implementation of ESD within the ACT. The focus is on working with the directorates to implement learning from the series of ESD workshops with directorate representatives and others, held in 2014.</p> <p>Along with findings from commissioned research, the Office is working to develop a set of ESD indicators that align more closely with those against which directorates routinely collect data, as well as with internationally developed GPIs. The aim is to extend the current focus on utilities and resource useage reporting, to include reporting on sustainability gains by considering ESD implications as a key component of planning and program decisions.</p> </li></ul>		
	Ongoing		



## B4 Risk management

To ensure that procedures and processes are up to date and relevant, the Office continually updates the Office procedures manual which documents processes for all key Office activities including file management, procurement, inquiries and complaints.

Risk management plans are prepared for all individual projects undertaken within the Office and staff seek advice on procurement for all major projects and on an as-needs basis as issues arise.

## B5 Internal audit

The Office has been formally included in the EPD's internal audit program.

## B6 Fraud prevention

Information on our Office's fraud prevention processes can be found in the EPD's annual report.

## B7 Work health and safety

Our Office is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace and maintaining the health, safety and welfare of its employees. Occupational health and safety is managed in accordance with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, (effective as of 14 June 2013).

During 2014–15 the Office did not receive any notices under the revised Act, and there were no notifiable incidents. The Office does not pay a first tier worker's compensation premium. Two stand-up desks were provided in 2013–14 to aid staff health management.

The EPD's annual report also reports on the Office's workplace health and safety policy.

## B8 Human resources management

Further information to that provided in this section can be found in the EPD's annual report.

### B8.1 Workforce profile

#### **Full-time Equivalent (FTE) headcount and demographics**

As noted in section B1.7, while our standard staffing number is six FTEs, at different times variations can occur in response to changing needs and situations and are reflected in the following tables.

**Table 10: FTE and gender**

Headcount total	FTE		Female	Male	Total
8	5.8	FTE by gender	3.9	1.9	5.8
8	5.8	Headcount by gender	6	2	8.0
		% of workforce	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%

**Table 11: FTE by classification**

Classification group	Female	Male	Total
Administrative officers	2	0	2
Senior officers	4	1	5
Statutory office holders	0	1	1
TOTAL	6	2	8

**Table 12: Headcount by employment category**

Employment Category	Female	Male
Casual	0	0
Permanent full-time	3	1
Permanent part-time	1	1
Temporary full-time	2	0
Temporary part-time	0	0
TOTAL	6	2



**Table 13: Headcount by diversity group**

Identifier	Headcount
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	0
Culturally and linguistically diverse	0
People with a disability	0

**Table 14: Headcount by age and gender**

Age group	Female	Male	Total
Under 25	0	0	0
25–34	1	0	1
35–44	1	0	1
45–54	2	0	2
55 and over	2	2	4

**Table 15: Headcount by average years of service**

Gender	Female	Male	Total
Average years of service	4.7	14.8	7.2

**Table 16: Recruitment and separation rates by classification group**

Division	% recruitment rate	% separation rate
Administrative officers	0.0	0.0
Professional officers	0.0	0.0
Senior officers	36.6	36.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>16.6%</b>

Figures on recruitment and separation rates by classification group in Table 16 are generated as a percentage of the cohort group with the total for the Office shown at the bottom of the table. The Office had one permanent separation and one permanent commencement/appointment during the period. Both were senior officers (average headcount of 2.73). The effect of these calculations for a very small cohort such as the Office is to produce rates that may look a little high or unusual.

## B8.2 Attraction and retention incentives (ARins)

The Office had no ARins arrangements during 2014–15.

## B8.3 Participation in learning and development programs

Our Office has a commitment to strengthening workforce and organisational capacity through building skills and capabilities. This learning and development is guided by individual achievement plans and supported through our strategic plan.

In addition to formal training sessions, Office staff attended seminars and forums on various environment and sustainability topics including adaptation to climate change, current biodiversity and ecosystems research, heritage and planning and development, water and catchments, renewable energy, active transport and light rail, and State of the Environment reporting.

Further details on Office staff participation in ACT public service (ACTPS) learning and development programs can be found in the EPD annual report.

## B8.4 Future learning and development areas identified as priorities

Learning and development priorities for all Office staff are identified within individual work plans. Details of ACTPS learning and development programs can be found in the EPD annual report.

## B8.5 Whole of government learning and development initiatives

The Office actively participates in the EPD Graduate Program and has benefitted from hosting a number of graduate placements.

## B8.6 Participation in study assistance program and ACTPS training calendar

No members of staff participated in the study assistance program during the 2014–15 financial year. All staff attended mandatory sessions and took up other ACTPS-advertised training opportunities. Details are included in the EPD annual report.

## B9 Ecologically sustainable development

### B9.1 Office accommodation

Until early October 2014 the Office was accommodated at 1 Constitution Avenue, level 2 of the Canberra Nara Centre. This building is a single-purpose office building which houses staff from different directorates across the ACT public service, predominantly staff from the Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate (CMTD). Our office occupied 118.53 square metres of floor space (including access to kitchens and public amenities for all staff based on a proportion of the tenancy floorspace). In October the office moved to Level 2 Telstra house, Northbourne Ave, Dickson, sharing this space with ACT Procurement Services. Here, the Office occupies 96.42 square metres of floor space (not including shared access to kitchens and public amenities for all staff based on a proportion of the tenancy floorspace).

### B9.2 Resource management planning

The Office is covered under the EPD Resource Management Plan (RMP) which is available on the Carbon Neutral Portal (<http://sharedservices/ACTgovt/Carbon-Neutral.htm>). Specifically, the RMP refers to the Office (p7):

*Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) is located at 490 Northbourne Avenue Dickson. Due to the proportionally small impact of those 6 FTE in their workplace, the Key Performance Indicator for OCSE is to maintain its full ACTSmart Business Accreditation.*

Our Office has been accredited as an ACTsmart business and continues to participate in the program. We are undertaking another audit in order to apply for registration at our new location in Telstra House. We also have staff representation on the EPD Green Team. As an independent office, we are always located in buildings other than those occupied by EPD. As a result our direct engagement in EPD initiatives is constrained. However, we have put in place a range of strategies to assist in achieving more sustainable resource management in our location and with our staff:

- the Office is continuing to work towards becoming a paperless office by using electronic data management via Objective Electronic Data Management (EDM) software for filing and to minimise paper and cartridge use;
- as as a unit largely engaged in report preparation and advocacy, we:
  - ☑ use 100 per cent recycled paper for our printing;
  - ☑ circulate electronic versions of reports for comment, rather than hard copies;
  - ☑ have two bicycles and MyWay bus passes with staff encouraged to use active and public transport to attend off-site meetings and events where feasible;
  - ☑ share recycling facilities (including organic waste) with co-lessee on our floor; and
  - ☑ two staff members are trained in the use of the ACT Government Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP).

**Table 17: Sustainable development performance — current and previous financial year**

Indicator as at 30 June	Unit	Current FY 2014–15	Previous FY 2013–14	Percentage change
Agency staff and area				See explanatory note 4 for this column
Agency staff	FTE	6	7 <sup>a</sup>	
Workplace floor area	Area (m2)	96.42	118.53	
Stationary energy usage				
Electricity use	Kilowatt hours	6, 3578	14,258	
Renewable electricity use (See Explanatory Note 2)	Kilowatt hours	317.89	712.90	
Natural gas use	Megajoules	12 564	28 955	
Transport fuel usage				
Total number of vehicles <sup>b</sup>	Number	1	1	
Total kilometres travelled	Kilometres	1738 <sup>c</sup>	2036 <sup>c</sup>	
Fuel use — petrol	Kilolitres	1.47 <sup>c</sup>	0.0163 <sup>i</sup>	
Fuel use — diesel	Kilolitres	0	0	
Fuel use — Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	Kilolitres	0	0	
Fuel use — Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	(CNG)	0	0	
Water usage				
Water use (See Explanatory note 1)	Kilolitres	13.02, <sup>h</sup>	63.75	
Resource efficiency and waste				
Reams of paper purchased	Reams	56	55	
Recycled content of paper purchased	Percentage	100	100	
Waste to landfill <sup>e</sup>	Litres	1560	6235 <sup>i</sup>	
Co-mingled material recycled <sup>e</sup>	Litres	480	1441 <sup>i</sup>	
Paper & cardboard recycled (incl. secure paper)	Litres	600 <sup>f</sup>	1357	
Organic material recycled	Litres	100 <sup>g</sup>	166 <sup>h</sup>	
Greenhouse gas emissions				
Emissions from stationary energy use	Tonnes CO2-e	5.90	8.06	
Emissions from transport Tonnes CO2-e	Tonnes CO2-e	3.25	1.76	
Total emissions Tonnes	Tonnes CO2-e	9.15	9.82	

### Explanatory notes:

- a. The Office establishment is six. An additional contractor in 2013–14 accounts for the total of seven.
- b. This is the Commissioner’s package vehicle which is available for use by our staff. Total kilometres provided are based on business use only.
- c. Figures calculated as work-related travel and fuel consumption based on the *Green Vehicle Guide*.
- d. Estimate water consumption at Nara Centre only. The ESP platform generally does not capture utility consumption data if the ACT Government is not formally billed for it either direct from the utility supplier or on-billed from a non-Government landlord as is the case for 490 Northbourne Ave.
- e. Figures are calculated as on pro rata allocation to the Office of number of bins collected.
- f. Based on the number of recycling bins (including secure recycling) supplied to the Office.
- g. Estimate at Telstra House location based on staff contribution to bins managed by commercial organics waste management company.
- h. Company ceased trading during the financial year.
- i. There appear to be a number of anomalies in these data as reported in 2013–14 which may have resulted from reporting figures based on total shared areas rather than pro-rata figures.

### 1. The Enterprise Sustainability Platform

The *Enterprise Sustainability Platform* was used to provide historical data for the previous FY column (2013–14) in this current annual report. This represents agency occupancy under the current administrative arrangements with exception to the formation of Access Canberra. This, together with more comprehensive and complete data now being available, will account for data different to that originally published in the 2013–14 report and will, to varying degrees, account for any noticeable differences to 2014–15 floor area, consumption and emissions totals.

### 2. Green Power purchased in 2014–15

ACT Property Group purchased 7530 MWh (Mega Watt hours) of GreenPower on behalf of the ACT Government, representing an indicative 5 per cent of the ACT Government’s energy consumption for 2014–15.

### 3. Greenhouse gas emissions in Current FY (2014–15) column

The *Enterprise Sustainability Platform* has been updated with a custom ACT electricity emissions factor being used for greenhouse gas emissions for 2014–15 to account for the effect of renewables in the ACT electricity energy supply mix. Greenhouse gas emissions for electricity consumption have been calculated using an emissions factor of 0.802 kilogram (kg) CO<sub>2</sub>-e/kilowatt hour (kWh) or 0.802 tonne (t) CO<sub>2</sub>-e/megawatt hour (MWh). This lower emissions factor (Scope 2 plus Scope 3) is specific to the ACT and reflects the contribution of renewable electricity generated under the ACT’s 90% Renewable Energy Target (RET).

### 4. Percentage change between 2013–14 and 2014–15 financial years

Calculating a percentage change between 2013–2014 and 2014–15 does not provide a meaningful comparison. Most figures are estimates based on data for whole buildings or floors. While floor area has been used to calculate our contribution or usage, our Office is a very small unit and has been accommodated at two different sites during 2014–15 within a floor shared with two other much larger ACT Government units, whose tenancy, in turn, changed over the financial year.



### **C1 Financial management analysis**

Further information on our Office's financial management is covered in the EPD annual report.

### **C2 Financial statements**

The ACT Government appropriation for the Office in 2014–15 was \$1,666,000, comprising a base budget of \$1,346 000 plus \$320,000 in rolled-over funding for the 2015 ACT State of the Environment Report and potential investigations.

The financial transactions for our Office are formally reported in the consolidated financial statements of the EPD annual report as part of 'Expenses on Behalf of the Territory'.

### **C3 Capital works**

Our Office has no capital works projects.

### **C4 Asset management**

Our Office does not own or manage any major assets, but maintains a portable asset register.

### **C5 Government contracting**

#### **C5.1 Procurement principles and processes**

Consistent with the provisions governing procurements up to \$200,000, the Office will continue to work with ACT Procurement Solutions to complete procurement actions where necessary.

#### **C5.2 Contracts exceeding \$25,000**

During 2014–15 the Office had 3 contracts exceeding \$25,000 (for details see Table 18, Appendix 2).

### **C6 Statement of performance**

The statement of performance for our Office is included in the EPD annual report as 'Expenses on Behalf of the Territory'.



### Appendix 1: Review and expert panel members

#### 1.1 Implementation Status Report 2014

##### **ACT Climate Change Council**

- Professor Barbara Norman (Chair)
- Ms Lynne Harwood (then, Deputy Chair)
- Ms Maria Efkarpidis
- Ms Dorte Ekelund
- Dr Frank Jotzo
- Mr Toby Roxburgh
- Professor Will Steffen

##### **Professional advice and expertise**

- Mr Nick Graham-Higgs, Director NGH Environmental; Fellow at the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand
- Mr Jack Gregory (formerly from the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission), PhD student, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California
- Dr Ross Lambie, Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics, Gas Market Program
- Dr Bob Webb, ANU Climate Change Institute; Senior Fellow, Fenner School of Environment & Society
- Senior Commissioner Malcolm Gray and staff, Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

#### 1.2 The 2015 ACT SoER: Independent assessment of management effectiveness

Review and advice for report themes:

**Land** — Mr Steven Gianakis, Mr Stephen Hughes, Mr Daniel Iglesias, Mr Daniel Santosuosso;  
*Contaminated sites only* — Mr Chris Collier, Mr Mark Heckenberg, Mr Daniel Walters

**Air** — Mr Chris Collier, Mr Dave Power, Mr Daniel Walters

**Water** — Mr Stewart Chapman, Mr Heath Chester, Dr Steve Cork, Mr John Feint, Mr Chris Glennon, Dr Evan Harrison, Mr Matt Kendall, Mr Tom Nilsen

**Biodiversity** — Ms Trish Bootes, Dr Steve Cork, Dr Margaret Kitchin, Dr Annie Lane, Mr Nick Lhuede, Dr Michael Mulvaney, Ms Nandhini Nagaratnam, Ms Heather Tomlinson, Ms Kathryn Tracy

**Heritage** — Ms Anna Gurnhill, Ms Pamela Hubert, Ms Jennifer O'Connell

**Appendix 2: 2014–15 contracts over \$25,000**

**Table 18: Summary of contracts over \$25,000**

Contract Title	Brief Description of Contract	Procurement Methodology	Social Procurement	Procurement Type	Exemption From Quotation and Tender Threshold requirements	Contractor Name	Contract Amount	Execution Date	Expiry Date	Small to Medium Enterprise (SME)
Implementation Status Report AP2	Edit, Design, layout: Implementation Status Report AP2	Single Select	No	Services (non-consultancy)	Yes	Biotext Pty Ltd	\$38,248.38	18/03/2014	30/11/2014	Yes
2015 State of Environment Report	Mgt Effectiveness Assessment: 2015 State of Environment Report	Single Select	No	Consultancy	Yes	Uniquet Pty Ltd	\$79,027.50	28/01/2014	30/12/2015	No
ACT Ecological Footprint	ACT Ecological Footprint: Research & report preparation	Single Select	No	Consultancy	Yes	University of Sydney	\$29,000.00	03/06/2015	31/07/2015	No



## Appendix 3: Compliance statement

The *2014–15 Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* must comply with the 2015 Annual Report Directions (the Directions). The Directions are found at the ACT Legislation Register: <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/annual/2015.asp>.

The compliance statement indicates the subsections, under the five parts of the Directions, that are applicable to the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment and the location of information that satisfies these requirements:

### Part 1 Directions overview

The requirements under Part 1 of the 2015 Directions relate to the purpose, timing and distribution, and records keeping of annual reports. The *2014–15 Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* name complies with all subsections of Part 1 under the Directions.

In compliance with s. 13 Feedback, Part 1 of the Directions, contact details for the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment are provided within the *2014–15 Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* to provide readers with the opportunity to provide feedback.

### Part 2 Agency annual report requirements

The requirements within Part 2 of the Directions are mandatory for all agencies and the *2014–15 Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* complies with all subsections. The information that satisfies the requirements of Part 2 is found in *2014–15 Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* as follows:

- Transmittal certificate, see page iii;
- Organisational overview and performance, inclusive of all subsections, see pages 1–11;
- Financial management reporting inclusive of all subsections, see page 40 and Appendix 2, page 42.

### Part 3 Reporting by exception

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has nil information to report by exception under Part 3 of the Directions for the 2014–15 reporting period.

### Part 4 Agency-specific annual report requirements

The following subsections of Part 4 of the 2015 Directions are applicable to the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment and can be found within the *2014–15 Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report*: Section B2, pages 6–11

### Part 5 Whole of Government annual reporting

All subsections of Part 5 of the Directions apply to the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. Consistent with the Directions, the information satisfying these requirements is reported in the one place for all ACT public service directorates, as follows:

Q. Community engagement and support, see the 2014–15 annual report of Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate;

R. Justice and Community Safety, including all subsections R.1 — R.4, see the 2014–15 annual report of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate; and

T. Territory Records, see the 2014–15 annual report of Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic, Development Directorate.

ACT Public Service Directorate annual reports are found at the following web address: [http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open\\_government/report/annual\\_reports](http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/report/annual_reports)

*“the future is  
not somewhere  
we are going, it  
is something we  
are creating.”*

Professor Ian Lowe

