

Terms of Reference
Investigation into the Government's tree management practices
and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest

The Commissioner will investigate and report on the following matters:

1. the scope and efficiency of any enhancement that may be required to the Government's existing tree management programs;
2. the benefits and drawbacks of considering funding for urban tree programs separately to climate change initiatives;
3. improved notification and consultation processes to support greater community involvement in urban tree planning and management, including risk mitigation, tree removal and planting;
4. the priority given in tree management decisions to environmental values, solar access and the retention of communities of trees in parks;
5. the sustainable reuse of timber from felled trees;
6. when replanting should occur following the removal of trees, the scope for pre-planting, and principles for the number and species of trees that should be replanted;
7. the need for enhanced management to maintain the survival and good health of trees;
8. appropriate safeguards to ensure contractors follow best practice and adhere to Government tree policies;
9. principles for the decision-making process where it is proposed that a tree is removed or is retained;
10. improvements to the Tree Protection Act or other relevant Acts in light of the above matters; and
11. resource implications associated with an enhanced program.