



MEDIA RELEASE

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Climate change action: we cannot hit the pause button

Renewables may be a winner, but further and urgent action is needed to drive energy efficiency and support vulnerable households in the ACT, according to a report released today by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

“This is not the time to hit the pause button. Every new report released on climate change implications reinforces this concern.” warns the Commissioner, Professor Kate Auty.

“The ACT has stepped up to the challenge and achieved significant outcomes in recent years. Our reverse auctions for sourcing renewable electricity supply have been a game changer in Australia. Maintaining momentum is essential.”

“Transport is the next major challenge; energy efficiency is the great opportunity. It is paramount that climate change policy supports low income households on the journey. They cannot be left behind.” she says.

The report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly today by Minister Rattenbury and provides some checks and balances about the climate change actions taken by ACT Government since the Commissioner’s last review in 2014.

The report provides suggestions, including expert commentary, on a range of issues that government should consider in the next round of policy iteration. ACT Government has already commenced developing its next policy, *Climate Challenge for Net Zero Emissions by 2050*.

“The community must be integral to the process, both in the conversation and the decisions. We must all participate and be part of the necessary actions to address climate change. This involves changing our behaviours and supporting those less fortunate.” Professor Auty emphasised.

The ACT Government has until April 2018 to provide a response to the recommendations in the Commissioner’s report.

“Living in a changing climate is no doubt one of the most significant challenges that we face. I am confident that the ACT Government and the community will continue to provide leadership in actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.” Professor Auty concluded.

The *Implementation Status Report on ACT Government’s Climate Change Policy* is available at:
http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/publications/special_reports_and_investigations/implementation-status-report/

Statement Ends.

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