



ACT Climate Change Council

Annual Report 2021-22



Acknowledgment to Country

Yuma
Dhawura Nguna Dhawura Ngunnawal
Yanggu ngalawiri dhunimanyin
Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari
Nginggada Dindi yindumaralidjinyin
Dhawura Ngunnawal yindumaralidjinyin

Hello,
This is Ngunnawal Country
Today we are meeting on Ngunnawal country
We always respect Elders, male and female
We always respect Ngunnawal Country

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as Canberra's first inhabitants and Traditional Custodians. We recognise the special relationship and connection that Ngunnawal peoples have with this Country. Prior to the dislocation of Ngunnawal people from their land, they were a thriving people whose life and culture was connected unequivocally to this land in a way that only they understand and know, and is core to their physical and spiritual being. The disconnection of the Ngunnawal people from Culture and Country has had long-lasting, profound and ongoing health and well-being effects on their life, cultural practices, families and continuation of their law/lore. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate acknowledges the historic dispossession of the Ngunnawal people of Canberra and their surrounding regions. We recognise the significant contribution the Ngunnawal people have played in caring for Country as for time immemorial they have maintained a tangible and intangible cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic connection to these lands and waters.



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Letter of Transmittal

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister Rattenbury,

It is my pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the ACT Climate Change Council for the financial year ending 30 June 2022.

The Council was established under Section 16 of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 (the Act) to advise you, as Minister, on matters relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and addressing and adapting to climate change.

This Report has been prepared pursuant to Section 19 of the Act and outlines the Council's activities during 2021-22, the advice given, and the recommendations made to you as Minister. Subsection 19(3) of the Act provides that within 21 days after receiving this report, it must be presented to the Legislative Assembly.

The Council has welcomed four new members this year, with expertise in public health and transport. We have also said goodbye to Ms Karen Jesson, who stepped down on 29 November 2021 and to Mr Ben Ponton, whose term ended on 30 June 2022.

Karen had played a vital role since her appointment in 2019, representing the interests of the ACT community and ensuring its voice was heard and represented in the Council's work. I and the other Council members sincerely thank Karen for this significant contribution.

Ben, as the Council's public employee member brought his considerable experience as the ACT's Chief Planner and the Director-General of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate to the fore. His passion for engaging with citizens at the earliest opportunity to codesign a sustainable and liveable community for all was greatly appreciated.

The Council is committed to providing rigorous expert advice on tackling climate change to the elected government of the ACT, through yourself as Minister, through the Climate Action Cabinet Subcommittee and directly through other ACT Government Ministers. We aim to increase this engagement over the forthcoming year. To aid this work, the ACT Government's review of the Act now requires the Council to develop a proposed annual Workplan to be submitted to yourself for agreement.

I thank you for your direction, my Council colleagues for their wisdom and energy, and the Secretariat provided by the directorate, and the directorate itself, for its support and dedication.



Professor Mark Howden
Chair, ACT Climate Change Council
25 July 2022

Introductory note from the 2021-22 Chair

The past year has been challenging for ACT residents as it has for many people globally. The mounting toll of climate extremes, the energy transition interacting with the energy crisis precipitated by the war in the Ukraine and underlying global economic challenges and geopolitical tensions have been critical parts of this.

The extraordinary run of wet and cool weather we have experienced in the ACT is largely through a combination of La Nina conditions stretching over three years, conditions in both the Indian and Southern Oceans conducive to rainfall and the underlying driver of climate change affecting all of these. It compares starkly with the conditions in the previous drought and Black Summer – linked to the same climate drivers but in the opposite phases. Again with climate change magnifying the effects. This is an important reminder of the large role that climate plays in our lives. And a demonstration of the need to place increasing emphasis on an effective adaptation response to a changing and more variable climate. Whilst the ACT has taken some steps on the climate adaptation journey, much remains to be done. The nature of climate adaptation means that everyone has a role and an interest in it being done well.

Whilst the ACT has to some extent been shielded from aspects of the energy price increases experienced elsewhere due to ACT Government decisions made as part of leading the transition to renewable electricity, it has not been immune. Our vulnerability to global energy system disruptions has emphasised that moving to renewable energy is not only a necessary response to dealing with climate change, a regional development opportunity and a way of reducing air pollution and associated health burdens but is also an important part of national security.

Following the implementation of renewably-sourced electricity, the emission-reduction focus in the ACT has moved onto transport, heating, waste and other emission sources. It has been pleasing to see the comprehensive suite of policies in the ACT to address these sources, again placing the ACT in a leadership position globally. This next tranche of emission-reductions will require a lot more buy-in from ACT residents and businesses to be successful, so an informed and motivated population will be crucial. And even when we make good progress on these direct sources of emissions, there remains the challenge of reducing the embodied emissions in products that we use in the ACT. These are actually the biggest source of emissions associated with the ACT, as a recent excellent report from the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment showed.

Across all of these issues and more, the ACT Climate Change Council will continue to provide evidence-based advice to the Minister on climate adaptation and emission-reduction activities in the ACT so as to maintain our well-being, our way of life and economy and our natural and built environments.

Professor Mark Howden
Chair, ACT Climate Change Council

Introduction

The ACT Climate Change Council advises the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction on matters relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in adapting to climate change. The Council was established by the ACT Government in 2011 under the [Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010](#).

The Council plays a pivotal role in informing climate change policies in the ACT, liaising with business and community, and scanning the horizon for the challenges and opportunities associated with creating a prosperous, climate-ready net-zero emissions Territory. It seeks to provide leadership and informed advice including via listening to community views and attitudes, understanding best international practice on climate change, and raising awareness of climate change risks and community benefits from effective climate action.

ACT residents are welcome to raise an issue with the Council or alert them to recent climate change news or research.





Statutory obligations

The Council is established under Part 4 of the [Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010](#) (the Act), which also sets out the functions of the Council and outlines how they are to be exercised.

The main function of the Council is to advise the Minister on matters relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, addressing, and adapting to, climate change. In exercising its functions, the Council must try to consult with representatives from business and the community, including environmental and conservation entities, on matters relating to climate change. The Council must also make efforts to provide information to private entities to encourage action to address, or adapt to, climate change.

In exercising a function under the Act, the Minister must consider any relevant advice given by the Council. Section 19 of the Act requires the Council to provide an annual report about the Council's activities during the financial year, including any advice or recommendations made to the Minister. The Council must give the report to the Minister within three months after the end of the financial year.

The Act can be found at:
<https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2010-41>

Administration

Remuneration

Remuneration for the Council is set by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal and reviewed annually. Members were remunerated according to Determination 13 of 2021, which provided a per diem rate of \$570 for the Chair and \$490 for members.

The attendance of members at Council meetings during the reporting period is provided at Appendix A, and a summary of expenditure is provided at Appendix B.

Gender report

The gender balance of the Council is taken into consideration when members are appointed. Over the 2021-22 reporting period, membership included five male and five female members.

Freedom of information

No freedom of information applications concerning Council business were received during 2021-22.

Accountability and secretariat

The Climate Change Policy team within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) provides Secretariat support to the Council. Further information on the work of the Council is available at <https://www.climatechoices.act.gov.au/climate-change/act-climate-change-council>.



Professor Mark Howden

- Chair 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2025

Professor Mark Howden was appointed to the Council as a member to represent climate change science and appointed as Chair in 2021.

Professor Mark Howden is Director of the Australian National University (ANU) Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions. He is also an Honorary Professor at Melbourne University, and a Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II. He was on the US Federal Advisory Committee for the 3rd National Climate Assessment and contributes to several major national and international science and policy advisory bodies. Professor Howden has worked on climate variability, climate change, innovation, and adoption issues for over 30 years in partnership with many industry, community and policy groups via both research and science-policy roles. Issues he has addressed include agriculture and food security, the natural resource base, ecosystems and biodiversity, energy, water, and urban systems. Professor Howden has over 430 publications. He helped develop both the national and international greenhouse gas inventories that are a fundamental part of the Paris Agreement and has assessed sustainable ways to reduce emissions. He has been a major contributor to the IPCC since 1991, with roles in the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and now Sixth Assessment Reports, sharing the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with other IPCC participants and Al Gore.

Membership

Members are appointed under the Act, which prescribes that the Council must comprise at least five, but not more than nine members appointed by the Minister. The Minister must, to the greatest extent practical, ensure the Council includes people with a broad range of skills and knowledge relating to mitigating or adapting to climate change.

During the 2021-22 financial year, the Council consisted of members with a diverse range of skills and experience in areas such as climate change science, energy efficiency, the built environment, community, health, business, transport and economics.



Dr Paul Bannister

Dr Paul Bannister was appointed to the Council for his expertise in energy efficiency and the built environment.

Dr Bannister has expertise in the field of commercial and institutional building energy efficiency. He had a central role in the development of major energy efficiency innovations such as the NABERS Energy and water ratings and the redevelopment of Section J (Energy Efficiency) of the Australian Building Code (2019 Edition). One of Dr Bannister’s particular specialities is the optimisation of building controls, which he has been able to use to create significant improvements in building performance on a wide range of sites. Dr Bannister is a well-known speaker on energy efficiency issues both nationally and internationally, having presented at numerous conferences within Australia and overseas. He has published well over 80 papers on energy efficiency related issues. Dr Bannister has strong networks in the building and property industry, from government through to builders and from industry associations through to individual property managers.



Associate Professor Cris Brack

Associate Professor Cris Brack was appointed to the Council for his expertise in environmental management.

Associate Professor Cris Brack (Honorary) has close to 30 years experience in natural resource measurement and management at the Australian National University (ANU) Fenner School of Environment and Society. This experience includes researching, teaching and developing best practices in urban forestry, publishing 12 peer reviewed articles on urban forests and green spaces, and another 70 papers on carbon sequestration, natural resource assessment and management.

Associate Professor Brack won an Australian Museum Eureka Award for Environmental Science for his work on the National Carbon Accounting System (NCAS), which was developed to support national policy development on climate change mitigation. He has extensive skills and experience working with ANU and the ACT Government on the planning and management of Canberra’s urban forest, including street trees and the National Arboretum. His recent research has focused on sustaining a vibrant and healthy urban forest in the presence of increasingly harsh climate scenarios.



Ms Sophia Hamblin Wang

Ms Sophia Hamblin Wang was appointed to the Council for her expertise in business.

Ms Hamblin Wang is currently the Chief Operations Officer of Mineral Carbonation International, a company that develops sustainable materials that incorporate CO₂ emissions into building products and was recently awarded first place for Resource Innovator of the Year at the New Materials Summit in Berlin. Ms Hamblin Wang is also a co-founder of ‘Kingfisher Co-Housing Canberra’, which aims to build resident-led micro-co-housing communities in Canberra. She has previously been a delegate at many national and international conferences on climate change, entrepreneurship and business including the World Economic Forum in Davos, 2020 and the UN Youth Climate Change Summit in New York, 2019.



Dr Arnagretta Hunter

- From 6 January 2022

Dr Arnagretta Hunter was appointed to the Council for her expertise in health and climate change research.

Dr Arnagretta Hunter has been a consultant physician and cardiologist since 2008. Dr Hunter is an academic and advocate working across clinical medicine, health research and advocacy in public policy to address complex challenges particularly relating to climate change. She has skills across medicine, political science and communications.

Dr Hunter has made many public presentations as well as publishing articles and academic papers on climate and health issues since 2008.

Dr Hunter is dedicated to understanding the health impacts of climate change, the advantages of working with communities on complex problems and the co-benefits of social change. Dr Hunter won the Sydney Sax medal (AHHA) as chair of Bushfire Impact Working Group in 2020 for contributions to public health in Australia and Physician Educator of the Year in 2018. Dr Hunter was also a co-coordinator of a Breakfast Series for Women in Climate Change, an ongoing series of events bringing together ACT community and leaders to discuss impacts and solutions to climate change and environmental challenges.



Associate Professor Aparna Lal

- From 6 January 2022

Associate Professor Aparna Lal was appointed to the Council for her expertise in environmental impacts and health outcomes for communities.

Dr Aparna Lal has a multidisciplinary science background, with two postgraduate degrees in Wildlife Science and Ecology, a PhD in Public Health and qualifications in Environmental Law and Zoology. A large part of Dr Lal's current work focuses on populations that are disproportionately vulnerable to a variety of health impacts associated with climate change. In Australia, these include Indigenous and rural communities. Dr Lal has published numerous studies on the health impacts of droughts and floods, and has written on the health impacts of bushfires, including relating to air quality issues. Dr Lal also brings expertise in high level statistical modelling and best-practice open science to her work that considers how a focus on human well-being can improve outcomes of ecological restoration.



Dr Thomas Longden

- From 6 January 2022

Dr Thomas Longden was appointed to the Council for his expertise in environmental economics.

Dr Longden holds a PhD in environmental economics and has expertise in energy, transport and health. His research focuses on applied economics, which has included energy economics, health economics and environmental health. His publications have focused on the deployment of electric vehicles, the cost and emission intensity of hydrogen, temperature-related mortality, and energy insecurity. This work has also included assessments of the relationship between health, housing, energy and extreme temperatures. A recent example was published in Nature Energy. Dr Longden also contributed to two chapters of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change.

Previous members



Ms Mia Swainson

- From 6 January 2022

Ms Mia Swainson was appointed to the Council for her experience as President of the Canberra Environment Centre, Chair of Zero Waste Revolution, and leader of an environmentally and socially responsible consultancy business.

Ms Mia Swainson has an environmental engineering qualification and experience in social analysis, environmental management and business in government and non-government organisations. Ms Swainson has experience providing consulting services on environmental and climate-related matters. Ms Swainson is also the President of the Canberra Environment Centre (since 2018) and has significant experience engaging with a large variety of ACT stakeholders across the public, private and community sectors. This has included contribution to the development of community environment education programs in the ACT. Ms Swainson is also the Chair of Zero Waste Revolution looking at innovative ways for the ACT to reach zero waste.



Ms Karen Jesson

- Tenure ended 20 November 2021

Ms Karen Jesson was appointed to the Council as a community development specialist.

Ms Karen Jesson is the Community Development Manager with Communities@Work. She has over 14 years' experience in Community Development (CD) and works with a variety of stakeholders and groups in the ACT. She has qualifications in Community Development and Management, as well as Permaculture Design and Home Sustainability Assessment. Karen has assisted in the development and delivery of some key projects within the ACT. She is passionate about making connections and sharing information. On numerous occasions she has been instrumental in delivering conferences and workshops which have seen both national and internationally recognised speakers present best practice thinking in the field of CD. She established the Sustainability Network, which saw two key outcomes, namely the development of Canberra loves 40% and Canberra City Farm achieved. She is one of the founding members of Canberra Transition Town. Karen resigned from the Climate Change Council effective 20 November 2021 to pursue her passion for community engagement in other forums.



Mr Ben Ponton

- Tenure ended 30 June 2022

Mr Ben Ponton was appointed to the Council as Director-General of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

Mr Ponton was appointed to the role of Director-General in April 2017. Ben is a registered town planner with over 25 years' experience in both the private and government sectors and is passionate about achieving high quality outcomes through meaningful and effective engagement. Ben has experience within the private sector where he worked as a town planning consultant before beginning his government career with various New South Wales local government authorities. For the last 14 years, Ben has worked for the ACT Government in areas such as strategic planning, environmental policy, land and planning regulation, transport, city services and urban renewal. Ben focuses on citizen-oriented Government and believes in engaging with citizens early to build a sustainable and prosperous community for all.

Observers (Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee members)



Ms Roslyn Brown

● From 11 February 2022

Ms Roslyn Brown is a Ngunnawal woman. Among numerous cultural advisory roles, Ms Brown is co-founder and serves as Co-Chairperson of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, founder and co-chair of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm. Ms Brown has a strong Cultural commitment to reconciliation and improving the status and capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT region and advocates for the awareness and continuance of Aboriginal cultural practice and protocols. Through her various roles she has advocated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on issues such as housing, justice, caring, disability, and health and successfully lobbied to establish holistic health care, training opportunities and support structures for Indigenous people in the ACT. Ms Brown is employed as Elder in Residence at the University of Canberra, a member of the CIT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory committee and was an inaugural elected member of the ACT Indigenous Elected Body (ACTIEB). As a representative and advocate for many in the community, she has demonstrated her commitment to the Ngunnawal Land, Culture, and the spirit of the People.

Mr Djibin Mudford

● From 11 February 2022

Mr Djibin Mudford is a Ngunnawal man who loves getting out on Country. He has lived in Canberra for forty years and can remember when he first came here to visit one of his sisters and just felt like he was home spiritually. Living in Canberra he spent thirty-six years with ActewAGL and its predecessors as a Linesman, Leading Hand, Foreman and Manager looking after the Canberra community's electricity supply. Working in his role allowed him to be on Country and to look after Country through some of the work he did around the asset management of power poles and vegetation particularly in more sensitive areas such as National Parks and Reserves. He is very passionate about caring for Country and being a voice for the Ngunnawal People as part of the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee.



Activities and changes

Over the 2021-22 reporting period, the Council held five formal meetings and provided advice to the Minister for Water, Energy, and Emissions Reduction, the Environment, Planning, and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), other ACT Government Ministers and the Climate Action Subcommittee of Cabinet. The Council prepared advice on a review of government legislation and new policy as well as participating in a variety of engagement activities. The Council also invited two Observers to Council meetings from the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee.

Ms Karen Jesson's appointment as a member of the council ceased on 20 November 2021. The Minister noted at the 14 December 2021 meeting that Ms Jesson would continue to provide advice and support to EPSDD on community engagement, in line with her experience and expertise.

The requirement for a public employee was removed as part of the review of the [Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010](#). Consequently Mr Ben Ponton's appointment ceased on 30 June 2022.

Four new appointments to the Council occurred in the reporting period, Dr Arnagretta Hunter, Dr Aparna Lal, Dr Thomas Longden, and Ms Mia Swainson. New council members were appointed 6 February 2022.



Meetings

The Council formally met five times in the 2021-22 reporting period in addition to progressing work through informal and out-of-session Council meetings and continued to consult with representatives from business and the community on climate change matters.

Wednesday 8 September 2021

This was the first meeting of the 2021-22 financial year and Karen Jesson's last meeting as a member of the Council. Council discussed its work plan including the importance of engaging indigenous communities in the work of the Council. Council made note of its meeting with the Chief Minister on broader engagement with the Canberra Community.

Council also met with the Minister to discuss its report on the Social Cost of Carbon. He suggested the Council attend the October Climate Action Subcommittee of Cabinet to discuss the report and the importance of a Social Cost of Carbon in addressing climate change.

The Minister committed to sharing the review of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 when complete.

Tuesday 14 December 2021

This was the second meeting of the 2021-22 financial year. Council discussed its work plan for 2021-22 and met with the Minister to discuss their plan. The Chair provided an update on Council's meetings with the ACT Government's Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction. Council sought advice from the Minister about its engagement with the Climate Action Subcommittee of Cabinet regarding the Social Cost of Carbon.

The Minister noted that the Chief Minister proposed further engagement between the Council and the Subcommittee. He advised that the Chief Minister's Office would advise the Council on suggested topics.

The Minister briefed the Council on the resignation of Ms Karen Jesson from the Council and the Council expressed its appreciation for Ms Jesson's contribution to the Council. The Minister advised that he had agreed to four new appointments to the Council, Dr Arnagretta Hunter, Dr Aparna Lal, Dr Thomas Longden, and Ms Mia Swainson.

Friday 11 February 2022

This was the third Council meeting of the 2021-22 financial year. Observers, Mr Djibin Mudford and Ms Roslyn Brown were also invited to the Council meeting from the Dhawura Ngunnawal Car for Country Committee. Ms Brown was an apology, but the Minister and Chair led an open discussion with Mr Mudford to explore strengthening Council engagement with Ngunnawal and other First Nations people.

Dr Bannister discussed work on a short paper “Cool Cities Cool Roads” including aspects of urban heat islands, planting trees and the health impacts of hot tarmac. Dr Longden discussed the potential for hydrogen in the ACT and relevant demonstration projects across Australia.

Council made plans to progress engagement with the Climate Actions Cabinet Subcommittee and discussed how the engagement related to the Council’s Forward Workplan.

Tuesday 19 April 2022

This was the fourth Climate Change Council (Council) meeting of the 2021-22 financial year. Council invited Mr Mudford to explore options to strengthen the Council’s engagement with First Nations people. Mr Mudford asked the Council to identify First Nations by their names rather than referring to them as Indigenous (e.g. Ngunnawal) and invited members to call him by his Ngunnawal name (Djibin rather than Stephen).

Council discussed their upcoming meeting with the Cabinet Climate Action Subcommittee of ACT Government, and sought advice from the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction on their presentation.

In response to a question from Mr Mudford about whether there was an environmental impact study on renewable energy from the 11 February Council the secretariat is liaising with the Council and EPSDD to identify relevant studies. Dr Longden provided further information on recycling solar panels and wind energy infrastructure.

Dr Sophie Lewis gave an overview of her work as the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment and a presentation about Scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions. Dr Lewis’s presentation looked at: Scope 1 emissions released inside the city caused by activities occurring in the city; Scope 2 emissions released by grid-supplied electricity and energy purchased for use inside the city; and Scope 3 emissions released outside of the city through activities occurring inside it.

Council made plans to prioritise requests for advice within its capacity and budget and met with the Minister to discuss the Council’s Workplan.

Tuesday 21 June 2022

This was the fifth and last Climate Change Council meeting of the 2021-22 financial year. The Chair discussed the growing number of requests for expert advice and proposed an approach to prioritise requests to within member’s capacity to deliver the most critical advice on core Council business. Council discussed requests for advice from the Climate Action Cabinet Subcommittee on a climate ready built environment through planning and building systems; Behavioural nudges and communication; and a path to interim 2025 greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The Council Workplan now has a clearer layout with a traffic light colour code that matches the Actions Register. As one of the Workplan items the Council discussed progress on the development of a community engagement strategy, a project that helps ensure the Council fulfills its function under the Act to consult with businesses and the community and encourages them to take action to address or adapt to climate change.



Advice and recommendations

The Council provides advice to the Minister and the Government and consequently met with other ACT Government Ministers on climate change issues. The Council has also provided advice to the Climate Action Subcommittee of Cabinet and included Observers from Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee to engage more with First Nations people.

In 2021-22, key advice to Government was as outlined below.

Update to the Social Cost of Carbon Report

Council's developed and published a report on the Social Cost of Carbon in the ACT.

Council continues to provide advice to the ACT Government on the Social Cost of Carbon, including implementation models.

The report, dated 26 May 2021, is available on the Council's webpage at www.climatechoices.act.gov.au/climate-change/act-climate-change-council.



Submissions

Council prepared a number of submissions and general advice during the year.

Contribution to the Review of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act

The Council made a submission to the Review of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act. The submission welcomed the development of the draft strategy and supported the objectives of the draft strategy. The submission also made multiple recommendations to improve the strategy. The Review made 12 recommendations, those being implemented include formalising an annual ACT Climate Change Council workplan to be developed by Council and agreed to by the Minister; prioritising the Minister's functions to ensure the ACT can continue to meet its climate change and emissions reduction objectives; new reporting requirements to track climate change and adaptation actions and progress them across multiple government directorates, and further consideration to Sector Agreements as a tool to help engage community and private sectors in emissions reduction activities.

Advice on the draft ACT Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy

In April 2022, Council members provided advice to the Minister's Officer on the draft ACT Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy.

The advice expressed support for the Strategy and provided recommendations on emission offsets, the national climate risk assessment, the national climate adaptation plan, a national emissions reduction target, setting emissions budgets, and the establishment of the Climate Change Commission.

Advice was also provided in relation to a scenario about provision of Green Gas for Canberra. This addressed the range of economic, environmental, and institutional aspects of such a plan.

Advice from the Cool Cities, Cool Roads paper

An example of the Council's reports is the Cool Cities Cool Roads Report. In April 2022 Councillor Paul Bannister met with Chief Engineer, Mr Adrian Piani, to discuss the high-level findings in the 'Cool Cities, Cool Roads' paper. Urban Canberra, generally, has significantly (6-8°C) raised summer night-time temperatures relative to the surrounding countryside. The paper scopes the opportunities for interventions to reduce urban heat island effects within urban Canberra.

Engagement

Council members organised and participated in a range of engagements during the year, including forums, briefings, and presentations.



ACT Council of Social Services

Date: 5 May 2022

Councillor Mia Swainson met with Energy Program Director, Geoff Buchanan, to understand the perspective of ACTCOSS on the Council's work.

Climate Action Subcommittee

The ACT Government established the Climate Action Subcommittee of Cabinet in 2021. The Subcommittee and Climate Change Council are developing an ongoing relationship. The Council attended two meetings with the Subcommittee, in July and November 2021 to discuss climate change trends and the social cost of carbon.

The Council attended the Climate Action Subcommittee meeting in July 2021 for the first time and presented on climate change trends, opportunities, and risks.

On 29 November 2021 the Council discussed its publication *A Social Cost of Carbon and Implications for the ACT in the context of the Government's 2021-22 budget commitment to establish a social cost of carbon for the ACT with an interim value of \$20 per tonne of emissions.*

Council developed a short paper on the hydrogen economy highlighting the diversity of conversations on this topic and the potential of other materials like ammonia, methanol, ethanol, and synthetic fuels

First Nations engagement

The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 (the Act) specifies that one of the ACT Climate Change Council's functions is to consult with representatives from the community, including environmental and conservation groups, on climate change matters.

The Government agreed to implement amendments recommended by the ten-year review of the Act, including clarifying that the Council's membership should include an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee (the Committee) was established in 2019 to engage, connect and work with the EPSDD to integrate cultural understanding within natural resource management. In November 2021, the Council Secretariat approached the Committee for advice on strengthening engagement between the Council and the Ngunnawal people. The Committee welcomed an opportunity to observe a meeting/s of the Council to develop a deeper understanding of the role and functions of the Council and opportunities for stronger engagement.

It is a great privilege to welcome observers from the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee to the Council.

Meetings with ACT Ministers

Council met with the following ACT Government Ministers with portfolio responsibilities that relate to climate change.

Meeting with Minister Gentleman

Date: 14 July 2021

Council members in attendance: Paul Bannister, Cris Brack, Mark Howden

Outcomes: Council provided advice on climate change and planning focussing on the benefits of greening the city and issues to do with emergency management.

Meeting with Minister Tara Cheyne

Date: 19 July 2021

Council members in attendance: Mark Howden, Sophia Hamblin Wang

Outcomes: Opportunities to build capacity in the renewable energy reverse auction process particularly for tech companies locating to Canberra. Attendees also discussed meeting the need climate change needs of our multi-cultural community; learning from COVID for climate change communications; and the possibility of establishing low or zero-emissions fine arts facilities and events so that if people want to have 'clean and green' art events, Canberra is the choice. The Minister sought updates on the prospects for the ACT to be a player in the hydrogen economy and in relation to greenhouse gas targets.

Meeting with Minister Shane Rattenbury

Date: 10 August 2021

Council members in attendance: Mark Howden

Outcomes: Discussion centred on the Council Chair arrangements and mode of operation of the council.

Meeting with Minister Emma Davidson

Date: 29 September 2021

Council members in attendance: Mark Howden

Outcomes: Discussion centred around the impacts of climate change on mental health, social justice and future challenges for ensuring accessibility to services.

Meeting with Minister Rebecca Vassarotti

Date: 18 October 2021

Council members in attendance: Mark Howden, Paul Bannister

Outcomes: Finding ways in which the ACT CCC can contribute more directly and effectively to policy development regarding, climate ready social housing, implementation of the National Construction Code, issues facing apartments and the skills and knowledge needed for building efficiency and sustainability. The ACT's move to renewable electricity and moving homes to all-electric provides a pathway for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for this critical sector. Paul Bannister will continue work with the Minister's Office in the buildings space.

Meeting with Member of the Legislative Assembly Jo Clay

Date: 11 March 2022

Councillor Mia Swainson met with MLA Jo Clay to discuss the connection between scope 3 emissions and a circular economy.

ACT Government

The Council met with EPSDD representatives to discuss minimum rental standards in September 2020.

The Council also attended a presentation and Q&A session about the ACT Transport Strategy 2020.

Australian Passive House Association

Date: 23 June 2021

Council Member in attendance: Paul Bannister

Councillor Paul Bannister met with CEO Paul Walls to discuss training packages for tradespeople. Paul Walls will compile an information package for circulation to ministerial advisors. A subsequent meeting was held with other members of the Associate and Councillors Bannister and Howden.



Contact the Council

The community and stakeholders are invited to contact the Council via the Climate Change Council Secretariat.

Email: ClimateChangeCouncilSecretariat@act.gov.au

Telephone: 13 22 81 (Access Canberra)

Post: GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Connect with the Council online

The Council maintains a presence on Twitter and LinkedIn, and invites the community to connect with them through social media.

Twitter: [@act_ccc](https://twitter.com/act_ccc)

LinkedIn: ACT Climate Change Council

Website: <https://www.climatechoices.act.gov.au/climate-change/act-climate-change-council>

Appendix A: Meeting attendance

The Council formally met five times in the 2021-22 reporting period.

- Wednesday 8 September 2021
- Thursday 14 December 2021
- Friday 11 February 2022
- Tuesday 19 April 2022
- Tuesday 21 June 2022

Number of council meetings attended by council members:

Member	Number of meetings held during member's tenure	Number of meetings attended
Professor Mark Howden (Chair)	5	5
Dr Thomas Longden	3	3
Dr Paul Bannister	5	5
Dr Cris Brack	5	5
Ms Sophia Hamblin Wang	5	5
Ms Mia Swainson	3	3
Ms Karen Jesson	1	1
Mr Ben Ponton	5	3
Associate Professor Aparna Lal	3	2
Dr Arnagretta Hunter	3	3
Mr Jim Corrigan (for Mr Ben Ponton)	1	1
Ms Roslyn Brown (Observer)	3	2
Mr Stephen Mudford (Observer)	3	3

Appendix B: Expenditure

Climate Change Council	Totals 2021-22
Remuneration	\$22,236.73
Total (excluding GST)	\$22,326.73

The totals listed here relate to meetings and activities remunerated in the 2021-22 financial year. Remuneration for Council members is determined by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal. Council members who are public employees do not receive additional remuneration.

