



ACT CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18

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Transmittal Certificate

Letter of Transmittal

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

It is my pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the ACT Climate Change Council for the year ended 30 June 2018.

The Climate Change Council was established under Section 16 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* (the Act) to advise the 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 2017-18, the advice given and 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.

In presenting this Annual Report, I thank my colleagues in the Council for their continued professionalism and dedication in advancing the interests of the ACT by providing informed and timely advice on climate change matters and engaging with the community and business sectors throughout the year.

Yours sincerely



Professor Barbara Norman
Chair
ACT Climate Change Council

Introduction

The ACT Climate Change Council (the Council) is an advisory body to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability (the Minister). The Council's main function is to provide advice on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The Council also plays a pivotal role in informing climate change policies in the ACT and in providing leadership to the community, working to raise awareness of climate change risks and community benefits from effective climate action, influencing community views and attitudes, and encouraging everyone to take action towards a decarbonised economy and a more resilient Territory.

The Council was formed in 2011 following the ratification of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 (the Act), which was enacted on 5 November 2010. The Minister announced the inaugural membership of the Council on 20 October 2011.

ACT residents are welcome to raise an issue with the Council, invite Council members to attend a local event or alert them to recent climate change news or research. Contact details for the Council are at the end of this report.

Statutory obligations

The Act sets out the functions of the Council and outlines how they are to be exercised:

S. 17 Functions of the Council

- (1) The main function of the Council is to advise the Minister on matters relating to
 - (a) reducing greenhouse gas emissions
 - (b) addressing, and adapting to, climate change.

Section 18(4) provides that 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.

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.

Administration

Remuneration

Remuneration for the Council is set by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal and reviewed annually. The Tribunal determined per diem (per day) remuneration of \$525 for the Chair and \$450 for members, effective from November 2017. The attendance of members at Council meetings and official events conducted during the reporting period is provided at Appendix A.

A summary of Council expenditure is at Appendix B.

Gender report

The gender balance of the Council is taken into consideration when members are appointed. For the 2017–18 reporting period, membership included four male and three female members.

Freedom of information

No freedom of information applications concerning Council business were received during 2017–18.

Accountability and Secretariat

The Climate Change section within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (Directorate) provides the Secretariat for the Council.

Further information on the work of the Council is available at www.environment.act.gov.au/cc



Membership

In line with the Act, 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.

Members are appointed under the [Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010](#). At the time of publication, Council membership was:

Chair

Professor Barbara Norman
until 30 June 2019

Deputy Chair

Professor Penny Sackett
until 30 June 2021

Ms Karen Jesson until 30 June 2019

Mr Toby Roxburgh until 30 June 2019

Professor Frank Jotzo until 30 June 2019

Professor Will Steffen until 30 June 2019

Mr Ben Ponton (Directorate) until 30 June 2019.

Two new members will be sought during 2018 to join the Council in 2019. The terms of six of the seven Council members are due to expire on 30 June 2019. Four of these members (Professor Barbara Norman, Professor Frank Jotzo, Professor Will Steffen and Mr Toby Roxburgh) have already served two terms on the Council and are therefore not able to serve another term. New members will be sought in 2019 to replace the members due to leave the Council.

Council members



**Professor Barbara Norman
(Chair)**

Professor Barbara Norman is appointed to the Council to represent the built environment.

Professor Norman is the Foundation Chair of Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra. Professor Norman is Director of Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF) and an Adjunct Professor with the Australian National University (ANU). Professor Norman is a Life Fellow and past National President of the Planning Institute of Australia and a Life Honorary Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute (UK). Professor Norman advises public and private sectors in Australia and has strong international linkages within Asia, Europe and the United States. She was a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) Working Group 2 (WGII) "Impacts", 2014, and was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal for her contribution to the community through urban and regional planning.



**Professor Penny Sackett
(Deputy Chair)**

Professor Penny Sackett is appointed to the Council to represent the community's interest in climate change and climate change science.

Professor Sackett is a physicist, astronomer and former Chief Scientist for Australia. Professor Sackett has served on Australian, Dutch, European, South African and US science and advisory panels, including several multi-national consortia and working groups. Professor Sackett was appointed Director of the Australian National University (ANU) Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics and Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories in 2002, serving a five year term. In October 2008 she took the post of Chief Scientist for Australia and retained academic status at the ANU to enable continued mentoring of students. As Chief Scientist for Australia (2008-2011), Professor Sackett provided independent advice to the Australian government on matters of science and innovation, and was a vocal champion of evidenced-based decision making. Professor Sackett is currently an Honorary Professor at the ANU Climate Change Institute, and a private strategic advisor.



Toby Roxburgh

Mr Toby Roxburgh is appointed to the Council as an energy specialist.

Mr Roxburgh is the chair of the Canberra branch of the Australian Institute of Energy, and has cofounded and supported a number of companies addressing energy and climate change. Mr Roxburgh is the technical lead for Energy Estate and has over 16 years of experience in sustainable energy projects. He has worked across the energy delivery spectrum: from education and energy policy through to cost benefit analysis, feasibility, design, construction, commissioning and operation. Mr Roxburgh brings passion and experience from his work in the energy sector across fields including: education, policy, planning, sustainable design, energy efficiency, district energy, renewables, carbon reduction and energy productivity. He has also been involved in light rail and demand management projects for ActewAGL, district energy delivery for the City of Sydney, remote solar PV systems for Indigenous communities through Indigenous Affairs, and energy master planning and delivery for the ANU to reduce carbon emissions, over 500MW of solar PV farms (through Renew Estate), electric bus and truck transport transformation (through Electromotiv) and is driving pumped storage, floating solar, solar thermal and other technologies forward.



Professor Will Steffen

Professor Will Steffen is appointed to the Council to represent climate change science.

Professor Steffen is a Councillor on the publicly-funded Climate Council of Australia and a global change researcher at the ANU. Professor Steffen is the sustainability theme leader of Canberra Urban and Regional Futures. Previously Professor Steffen served as the Science Adviser to the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. Professor Steffen has served as Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, an international network of scientists studying global environmental change based in Stockholm, Sweden and is currently a guest researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. His research spans many fields including climate and Earth System science, with an emphasis on incorporation of human processes in Earth System modelling and analysis; and on sustainability and climate change, with an emphasis on urban areas. Professor Steffen was a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Forth Assessment Report (AR4), Working Group I (WGI).



Professor Frank Jotzo

Professor Frank Jotzo is appointed to the Council to represent climate change science and is an energy specialist.

Professor Jotzo is an Associate Professor at ANU, Director of the Centre for Climate Economics and Policy at Crawford School of Public Policy and an ANU Public Policy Fellow. Professor Jotzo has research expertise in the economics and policy of climate change (including mechanisms and policy design for greenhouse gas control), policy frameworks for adaptation to climate change and international climate policy, as well as energy policy and land-use change policy. Professor Jotzo has published widely, advised governments and consulted for international organisations. Professor Jotzo was an advisor to the Garnaut Climate Change Review, advisor to Indonesia's Ministry of Finance, consultant to international organisations and was a Lead Author of Chapter 3 and the Technical Summary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).



Ms Karen Jesson

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

Ms Karen Jesson is the Community Development Manager with Communities@Work. She has over 11 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 has 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 is a member of the Climate Change Council and involved in a variety of projects, including working closely with the Suburban Land Agency to deliver the Mingle Community Development program in the new and emerging communities of Wright and Coombs.



Mr Ben Ponton

Mr Ben Ponton is appointed to the Council as Director-General of the ACT's 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.

ACTIVITIES

Council meetings

In the 2017-18 reporting period, the Council met four times in addition to progressing work through sub-committees, meetings with government Ministers and other advisory groups, and continuing to consult with representatives from business and the community on climate change matters.

Meeting 22, 29 August 2017

Council discussed the current thinking on greenhouse gas reduction targets to be provided as advice to the Minister. The Council considered the following issues:

- » most suitable years for interim targets
- » extent each sector could contribute
- » potential issues in achieving interim targets
- » linking with technical advice from the Directorate
- » carbon offsets
- » social considerations.

The Minister joined the Council meeting and provided an update on the proposed community engagement process for the Discussion Paper on ACT's Climate Strategy to a net zero emissions territory. Council members and the Minister discussed interim targets, zero emission precincts and carbon offsets.

The Council noted the increasing importance of addressing the transport sector for the ACT to achieve its legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Meeting 23, 27 October 2017

Members from the Climate Change Ministerial Advisory Group (CCMAG) joined part of the Council meeting. CCMAG members outlined the context and reasons for forming this group, and summarised work underway towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050. The Council provided an overview of recent advice to the Minister on interim emission reduction targets and carbon offsets.

The Minister also joined the Council meeting and mentioned two priorities for Council in the near future:

- » being available to provide expert advice in response to questions from the community during public consultation on the climate change discussion paper, which may include talking to community groups and presenting at forums
- » helping to develop materials to communicate Council's advice to a general audience.

The Minister outlined the intention to release the discussion paper including the Council's advice on interim targets, as well as a strategy and action plan to 2025.

Meeting 24, 23 January 2018

Council discussed priority areas for work in 2018. Six topics were identified as priorities:

- » explore climate change impacts on local agriculture and industry in the ACT
- » develop an agreed approach on scope 3 emissions
- » develop a clear vision for a net zero emissions city and Territory
- » zero emissions aviation
- » urban heat island effects
- » social cost of carbon.

An update was also provided on the consultation to date on the discussion paper on the ACT's Climate Strategy to a Net Zero Emissions Territory, including aspects of community engagement, and on the alignment of the ACT Government's Planning Strategy refresh, the development of a new Transport for Canberra strategy and the Climate Strategy.

Meeting 25, 18 April 2018

Dr Jacki Schirmer from the University of Canberra presented preliminary results of the recent longitudinal survey on community climate change resilience in the ACT region. The survey was commissioned by the ACT Government and will provide baseline information for ongoing surveys.

The Directorate provided an overview of the economic modelling commissioned by ACT Government earlier in 2018. The economic modelling assesses likely cost impacts of the emissions pathways identified in the emissions modelling commissioned by ACT Government earlier in 2018.

Council discussed the urgent need to address possible unsustainable building and urban development going on across the city which may lead to high emissions and low resilience.

The CCMAG met with Council and discussed common interests and how the Council and CCMAG could work together. The need for ongoing engagement with the community beyond the discussion paper consultation period was highlighted as a priority.





Publications

Members collaborated on a range of activities associated with the work of Council.

Net Zero Precincts Summary

This paper explores the benefits of implementing carbon neutrality at a precinct level, be it a shopping centre, suburb or community hub. Net zero precincts are cheaper, more liveable and create larger economic growth than normal precincts. The ACT can advance and improve on strategies implemented in these precincts to become a world leader to assist in hitting the ACT's target of net zero emissions by 2045 or earlier and generating large economic growth. Available at www.environment.act.gov.au/cc

Out of session activities

The members engaged in a range of activities out-of-session, including meetings, events and presentations.

Meeting with Minister Meegan Fitzharris – 22 November 2017

Members of the Council met with the Minister for Transport and City Services, Meegan Fitzharris MLA and provided a briefing on future emission reduction targets.

Professor Penny Sackett, Professor Will Steffen, Mr Toby Roxburgh, Ms Karen Jesson and Professor Frank Jotzo attended from the Council.

Business leaders event – 21 June 2018

This event, intended for business leaders in the ACT community, sought to raise awareness of the likely changes that will be required to meet our net zero greenhouse gas emissions target and build resilience to climate change impacts and their implications to business. In addition, ideas and comments were invited on how to make the shift to a zero emissions, climate resilient economy and society.

Professor Frank Jotzo and Mr Toby Roxburgh attended on behalf of the Council.

Building industry workshop – 22 June 2018

This workshop was designed to provide an overview on the ACT's climate projections, emission targets and future direction, and what a low emissions future may look like for the building sector. Professionals from a range of backgrounds within the building sector attended the workshop, including builders, architects, certifiers, registered training organisations, developers and the broader general public. The attendees identified the greatest barrier to the delivery of efficient, climate-wise buildings in the ACT is the lack of awareness, information and training.

The event was hosted by Professor Penny Sackett.

Available at: www.environment.act.gov.au/cc



Advice to the Minister

During the 2017–18 reporting period, the Council provided advice to the Minister on a number of issues.

Advice to the Minister:

The Council wrote to the Minister on 19 October 2017 on the importance of setting interim greenhouse gas emission targets for the ACT, and to recommend particular targets for the years 2025, 2030 and 2040. In this letter, the Council also proposed that the ACT should achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 or earlier, and that the Territory not rely on purchased emissions offsets to achieve emission targets. It was also proposed that any overshoot above an emissions target would trigger government investment in accelerating the Territory's path to net zero emissions, to the value of the social cost of carbon of the shortfall. Available at www.environment.act.gov.au/cc

The Council also met with the Minister on three occasions. In August 2017, Council members and the Minister discussed interim targets, zero emission precincts and carbon offsets. Discussions in October 2017 focussed on Council member's availability to provide expert advice in response to questions from the community, communication tools, a Climate Change Fund and carbon offsets. The Council also met with the Minister in January 2018 to discuss Council appointments, Council's work plan, social cost of carbon, climate-wise buildings and Scope 3 emissions.

Discussions with Government officers:

Members of the Council engaged in discussion with ACT Government officers, principally from EPSDD, on:

- » development of the ACT's new Climate Change Strategy
- » implementation of the ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- » interim greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets
- » increased community engagement by the Council on climate change issues.

Tweets
206

Following
167

Followers
222

Likes
100

Follow

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media



ACT CCC @ACT_CCC · 10 Dec 2017

The ACT launched a discussion paper today on becoming a "Net Zero Emissions Territory". New near- and mid-term emission targets, a no-offsets policy, and the social cost of carbon are part of the conversation.

Have your say,



ACT's Climate Strategy to a Net Zero Emissions Ter...

Help us set targets and find solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to net zero emissions

yoursay.act.gov.au

Join the Council on social media

The Council has a growing interactive media presence on two social media platforms: Twitter and LinkedIn. The Council invites the community to connect with them.



The Council's Twitter handle is @act_ccc



The Council's page is at <https://au.linkedin.com/pub/act-climate-change-council/a0/702/b51>

Contact the Council

The community and stakeholders are invited to contact the Council via the Council's secretariat.



climatechangecouncil@act.gov.au



13 22 81 (Access Canberra)



GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Appendix A: Council members' attendance

During the 2017–18 reporting period the Council held four meetings:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1. | 29 August 2017 | 3. | 23 January 2018 |
| 2. | 27 October 2017 | 4. | 18 April 2018 |

Number of meetings attended by Council members

Member	Number of meetings in reporting period	Number of meetings attended
Professor Barbara Norman (Chair)	4	2 ¹
Professor Penny Sackett	4	4
Professor Will Steffen	4	2
Professor Frank Jotzo	4	4
Mr Toby Roxburgh	4	4
Ms Karen Jesson	4	4
Mr Ben Ponton	4	1 ²

1 Professor Barbara Norman was on research leave between 1 July and 30 December 2017, so she was unable to attend meetings during this period.

2 A nominated representative attended in place of Mr Ben Ponton at the three meetings he was unable to attend.

Appendix B: Budget

Climate Change Council	Payments in 2017–18
Remuneration – sitting fees * #	\$21,173
Projects	0
Miscellaneous	\$1,195
Total (excluding GST)	\$22,367

* Council members representing the public service are not paid sitting fees.

Remuneration for Council members for sittings and out-of-session activities is determined by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal.

