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CLIMATE
CHANGE!

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



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BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Ecosystems provide vital services that maintain life on our planet. The protection and conservation of remaining biodiverse areas are essential for the wellbeing and survival of all life on Earth, including human beings. Human beings have been part of a dynamic interaction with Australia's ecosystem for over 60,000 years.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. local First Nations knowledge should always be integrated into sustainable natural resource management and conservation
2. ecosystems have inherent value
3. the best way to support biodiversity and threatened species is by creating healthy ecosystems; we should take a holistic approach, rather than reductionist approach, towards ecosystem management
4. Integrated Pest Management is an ecosystem approach of management methods to control pests and should be prioritised over pesticides
5. current generations have a responsibility to ensure that local and global ecosystems are maintained and strengthened for future generations
6. maintaining, expanding and connecting protected areas is vital to preserving healthy ecosystems and biodiversity
7. ecosystem management and restoration activities must integrate understandings of climate change and its impacts
8. the precautionary principle should be integrated into all decision making where there is potential for serious or irreversible environmental damage
9. the major threats to biodiversity are ecosystem destruction and fragmentation caused by, for example, the spread of invasive species and climate change
10. high-value biodiverse areas that cannot be replaced must be protected; biodiversity offsets should only be used as a last resort, after efforts to avoid and mitigate any human impacts, and only if evidence suggests biodiversity offsets will work
11. the ACT's unique grassland and woodland environments should be valued, restored and protected
12. government, the private sector, volunteer organisations and people must work together to improve biodiversity
13. community involvement in biodiversity and conservation should be enabled and supported
14. conservation and re-introduction of local species should be encouraged throughout the ACT
15. economic interests should not compromise the conservation of ecosystems or the survival of protected species, including the economic interests of governments and landholders to sell greenfield land for development

16. the ACT has a role to play in national and global reforestation and should lead local efforts to mitigate climate change impacts and biodiversity loss through re-vegetation.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. to ensure the ACT's biodiversity, native bushland and riparian systems are protected and enhanced as our population grows and as we respond to climate change impacts, including extreme weather events
2. Increases in the urban tree canopy, permeable surfaces and deep soil zones which support the management of urban heat and the provision of urban habitat across the whole of the ACT.
3. to maintain and enhance the resilience of local and regional ecosystems by increasing ecological connectivity; protecting existing habitats and restoring and connecting habitat including wildlife corridors through the urban environment
4. all government-funded initiatives that protect the ACT's ecosystems and threatened species, including through support for community-based projects, must monitor, evaluate, and report on their status and be funded to do so
5. increased funding for biodiversity education programs to raise awareness, foster understanding and inspire action to conserve and protect the variety of life and ecosystems in the ACT region.
6. increased resourcing for ACT Government online maps and apps to improve geospatial data systems to survey, monitor, base decisions on, and publicise free and accessible local information on threatened species, vulnerable ecosystems and the state of the ACT environment.
7. strengthened protection of the ACT region ecological network and areas valued by First Nations. This includes protecting and connecting conservation areas, water bodies and creeks, urban open spaces, sensitive ecological communities, as well as other potential wildlife habitat and the ecological corridors linking them.
8. integrated land and water management at the regional scale to manage biodiversity pressures; protect or regenerate habitat; and build landscape level habitat connectivity beyond the ACT border.
9. evidence-based management of ecosystems
10. increased ongoing funding for invasive species management to adequately address the negative impacts of invasive species in the ACT, given climate change accelerates their impacts
11. to reduce the impacts of domestic cats on native wildlife through local consultation, education and enforcement of cat containment laws
12. increased ongoing funding for strategic invasive species management programs
13. to encourage and promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in all aspects of pest control to minimise pesticides by using a wide range of management methods.

14. a biodiversity offsets policy that does not perpetuate biodiversity loss and is only used where evidence indicates offsets will work, with a clear threshold for when offsets will not suffice. Offsets should:
 - a. result in a net gain for the specific species or ecosystem within the local area
 - b. achieve benefits in perpetuity
 - c. include a monitoring and reporting system to assess effectiveness
 - d. be legally enforced
 - e. not include past conservation actions, unless previously protected for offset purposes
 - f. be in place prior to development commencing
 - g. be supported by adequate funding, including for research, restoration and monitoring
15. joint management of ACT protected areas by local First Nations representatives and government, which demonstrates best practice and provides opportunities for employment of local First Nations peoples
16. continue to strengthen community partnerships to manage the ACT's environment, and enhance ongoing support and funding for continued volunteer efforts in caring for these areas including ACT ParkCare, Landcare ACT, ACT Wildlife, citizen science programs and Catchment Groups
17. continue to integrate First Nations cool burning practices into ACT fire prevention, management and recovery strategies to minimise bushfire risk while maximising biodiversity outcomes, including removing existing barriers and continuing to create First Nations fire management employment opportunities at all levels
18. implementation of incentives and regulations to encourage rural and urban communities across all land tenures to conserve and restore habitat for biodiversity protection purposes, as well as provision of environmental services to these communities.

CANBERRA NATURE PARK

19. adequately resourced Parks and Conservation service that ensures Canberra's reserves are adequately protected from invasive species incursions
20. better education in the community about the importance of the nature reserves within our footprint, including the importance of residual box-gum and grassland habitat in the ACT

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Climate change is increasing the length, severity and frequency of extreme weather events, including fire seasons, droughts, floods, heatwaves and storms. Emergency responses, accompanied by adequate land management and a rapid reduction in emissions, are essential to addressing and mitigating the consequences of this reality.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. well-resourced and well-coordinated emergency services are essential to protecting human life and the natural environment. Responding and adapting to unprecedented events and the consequences of disasters is particularly important. Mitigating the risk of damage and destruction is key.
2. as Traditional Custodians, First Nations peoples have cultural expertise in fire ecology and the sustainable management of country
3. urban planning, building codes and infrastructure decisions must incorporate activities to address risks associated with living in a bushfire-prone landscape
4. the ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan must incorporate the latest climate change forecasts and recognise Canberra as a regional hub in a bushfire-prone landscape
5. disaster management strategies must include public education about bushfire hazards, fire risks, bushfire survival planning and disaster response
6. vulnerable people in the community must be equitably supported in disaster response
7. disasters will impact on communities in ways that are currently difficult to predict

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT community to be prepared for the risks of living in a bushfire-prone landscape and the risks of severe weather events, and actively mitigate risk
2. the ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan to recognise and use the cultural expertise of Traditional Custodians in the sustainable management of country, and to ensure proactive cultural burns are part of bushfire management in the ACT
3. a well-coordinated regional plan to respond to bushfires and other severe weather events
4. to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the increasing length and severity of bushfire seasons, and other disasters that are influenced by climate change
5. evidence-informed proactive bushfire management practices with a range of fuel reduction measures, including burns that protect ecosystems and the maintenance of fire trails, which also minimise the risk and impact of bushfire on urban land
6. emergency services to adopt best practice and regularly monitor new developments in response techniques to be prepared for unprecedented extreme weather events

7. emergency services to be properly and sustainably resourced to meet the increasing needs of the community, complexity of bushfires and disaster management
8. government provision of emergency funds to affected households and organisations to address immediate and long-term consequences of disasters
9. recognition of the importance of volunteer emergency services personnel, continued collaboration between volunteer and professional emergency services and sufficient volunteer training opportunities
10. increased funding for community engagement, training and disaster preparedness programs
11. expertise and resources for emergency response services to be provided to vulnerable countries in our region
12. continued refinement of new communication technologies and policies to assist in broadcasting emergency information and warnings to the broader community, including those with hearing and vision impairment
13. increased resources for the recruitment of professional firefighters to meet anticipated increased demands and community need
14. increased support, resources and protections for emergency responders, including maintenance of core skills, specialist training programs, wellbeing initiatives and post-incident support
15. fire stations and equipment ensured to be fit for purpose, interoperable and equipped to promote firefighter wellbeing
16. responsibilities of relevant coordinating agencies to be clear and up to date with bushfire zone development regulations
17. public, safe, comfortable and accessible spaces for people to access in heatwaves and other extreme weather events, such as hazardous smoke.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

The world is facing a climate change emergency requiring urgent actions across all levels of government to both reduce emissions and adapt to the unavoidable impacts. Inadequate action on climate change has already resulted in widespread negative social, ecological and economic impacts around the world, including but not limited to more extreme bushfires and severe weather events, harm to public health—including mental health— disruptions to food, power and communications supply, and increased displacement of people and animals. The ACT is already experiencing the effects of climate change through changes to temperature and frequency of extreme weather events.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. we are facing a climate crisis that poses serious risks to people, ecosystems, biodiversity and infrastructure; we must rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to keep global warming to below 1.5 °C
2. climate adaptation is necessary in addition to mitigation due to the effects of locked-in climate change.
3. ACT Government must ensure a just transition for those impacted by ACT Government actions in the shift to net zero emissions
4. delayed action increases the risks we face and will result in costly and devastating impacts on our communities and ecosystems
5. democracy, justice and equity must be guiding principles in the transition towards net zero emissions
6. use of all fossil fuels needs to be rapidly phased out
7. reducing emissions at their source should be our primary method of addressing climate change, rather than offsetting emissions
8. addressing climate change requires broad participation by the community; community leadership should be enabled and supported
9. the planning of our built environment is integral to our transition to net zero emissions
10. existing vegetation must be protected, re-vegetation is necessary to draw down greenhouse gases, though not a replacement for reducing emissions.
11. major electricity infrastructure assets should be in public or community ownership

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT to strive to reach net zero emissions by 2030
2. the ACT to advocate for a coordinated federal, state, territory and local government approach to rapidly reducing emissions

3. an energy strategy to maintain at least 100% renewable electricity, transition off fossil gas, increase energy efficiency, and reduce energy consumption, increase local electricity generation and storage capacity, improve the resilience of the electricity network, improve reliability and support innovative local energy solutions
4. to build capacity within our communities and industries to expand the local renewable energy sector, including through increasing community and public ownership of energy production and storage
5. ACT Government to support workers throughout the transition to net zero emissions through appropriate vocational training and re-training for affected and emerging sectors
6. support for households to ensure a just transition to net zero emissions, with priority given to low-income and rental households
7. ACT Government to set standards, such as building standards, that enable and inform the transition to net zero emissions
8. to continuously improve energy efficiency in existing public housing, and ensure all public housing is 100% electric
9. to continuously improve the energy efficiency of and electrify government property assets, such as community halls and government office buildings
10. to increase public education on the ways in which the community can reduce its consumption of energy in addition to increasing energy efficiency
11. to continue work to phase out the use of fossil gas in the ACT
12. to ban the installation of new gas appliances so that all new appliances are electric, and provide support for the transition to households requiring assistance
13. alternative energy sources to be used only if they are produced sustainably; for example, hydrogen should only be created using renewable electricity, and biogas should only be captured from waste products with no higher use
14. an appropriately regulated energy system to encourage and support people and communities to generate, store, share and use renewable energy, such as microgrids
15. measures to help transition the ACT from a reliance on private car travel, such as through convenient and prioritised zero emissions transport—including a high-quality bus and light rail network—and extensive provisions for walking, cycling and e-mobility, and car share networks
16. ACT Government to continue to promote the uptake of zero emissions vehicles, including through delivery of zero interest loans for EV and chargers, incentives and advice for apartment charging stations, an expanded public charging station network, and continued transition to a 100% zero emissions ACT Government vehicle fleet
17. planning and building regulations and incentives to require new commercial, residential and government buildings to minimise lifecycle emissions. This includes increasing minimum energy efficiency and use requirements, designing buildings to use renewable energy, ensuring new suburbs maximise solar passive orientation and solar design, and providing appropriate incentives and subsidies
18. measures to support existing commercial, residential and government buildings to transition to zero emissions operations and minimise lifecycle emissions. This includes education and information campaigns, incentives and support for zero emission

- alternatives—including a continuation of existing energy efficiency programs—and government strategies for hospitals and schools to reach zero emissions
19. the ACT to have a science-based approach to climate change adaptation by ensuring that:
 - a. the ACT deliver on its goal of at least 30% tree canopy coverage and 30% permeable surfaces by no later than 2045 to assist city cooling and provide habitat, with realistic interim planting targets (see also the ACT Greens Biodiversity and Conservation Policy)
 - b. all planning and procurement for ACT infrastructure, such as sporting facilities, playgrounds and schools, takes account of predicted changes to the ACT climate
 - c. programs are put in place to support vulnerable communities to upgrade houses to cope with increasing temperatures
 20. ACT Government to lead the way by reducing its own ‘scope 1’ and ‘scope 2’ emissions to zero, and to exemplify best practice in zero emissions building, transport, waste and procurement, including minimising (embodied) ‘scope 3’ emissions
 21. ACT Government to continue implementation of a ‘social cost of carbon’ to evaluate the climate change impacts of budget, policy, procurement and infrastructure decisions
 22. ACT Government to advocate for strong and science-based national policies and targets to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the transition to a net zero emissions economy, and to work cooperatively with all levels of government wherever possible
 23. ACT Government to implement measures to reduce the ACT’s ‘scope 3’ emissions, and regularly report these emissions
 24. ACT Government to support innovation, research and development of renewable energy technologies and climate change solutions.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT OF THE ACT

Humanity currently uses more resources than the planet's ecosystems renew. Current levels of resource consumption are unsustainable. The ACT's ecological footprint is determined by the number of people in the ACT and their per capita consumption of land, resources and energy. The ACT's per capita ecological footprint is 5.24 hectares—three times more than the global average of 1.8 hectares (ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment 2019, p. 9).

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the ACT must substantially reduce our ecological footprint
2. that we can reduce the total ecological footprint of the ACT without reducing the total population
3. urban design, technology, transport, industry, food production, and food consumption are important factors that can reduce ecological footprints
4. alternative approaches to prosperity that are consistent with a sustainable ecological footprint need to be developed and applied
5. efforts to reduce per capita resource consumption need to take into account social justice, equity, cultural and economic considerations
6. the ACT should set an example to encourage other regions to reduce their ecological footprint.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. ACT Government to legislate a long-term sustainable ecological footprint target to be achieved by 2050, with interim targets
2. the ACT to be a leader in encouraging and enabling a small ecological footprint way of life
3. the ACT government to support the ACT community to take action to reduce the impact of its consumption on local, regional, national and global environments
4. regional and national collaboration to find solutions to transport, urban development, water, food production, waste and other issues to enable low impact living
5. the ACT to meet its emission reduction targets and phase out the use of fossil fuels as part of achieving net zero
6. the ACT Government to introduce regulation, policy, procurement and budget initiatives that support a circular economy (see also the ACT Greens Circular Economy Policy)
7. the ACT Government to set firm city limits and stop Canberra's urban sprawl.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

How we produce our food is vitally important to the health of the planet and people.

Sustainable agriculture to grow food locally in our city and surrounding rural areas can reduce our emissions, protect against food price spikes and shortages, and ensure Canberrans can access affordable, fresh food, helping protect us from climate shocks and providing new jobs and new ways for our community to connect.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. food is essential to community, cultural expression, enjoyment, and nourishment
2. the current system of food production, consumption, and waste is unsustainable, insecure and economically unjust
3. the long-term viability of agriculture depends on the adoption of ecologically sustainable practices
4. climate change and increasing severe weather events are increasingly impacting food production and transportation, requiring a government and community response to ensuring food security into the future
5. people have a right to know where their food comes from and how it is produced
6. ACT Government has an obligation to ensure the health and wellbeing of our community by ensuring access to affordable, sustainable and nutritious food (see also the ACT Greens Health Policy)
7. food producers, distributors and consumers must consider the ecological impact of producing, transporting, packaging, storing, preparing and disposing of food and food waste
8. local and regional farmers should be supported to develop sustainable and affordable food systems
9. backyard and community food growing are valuable community activities that can contribute meaningfully to food supplies in the ACT
10. agricultural production, processing and distribution should:
 - a. be ecologically sustainable and climate-appropriate
 - b. provide nutritious and healthy food
 - c. support diverse local and regional fresh produce
 - d. be fair to farmers, distributors and consumers
 - e. respect animal welfare
11. food production and consumption play an important role in community-building and food and agriculture education
12. factory farming causes high levels of pollution
13. food and organic waste should be used as a valuable resource

14. urban sprawl and extractive industries pose serious threats to the scarce land and water resources needed to produce food in our region
15. insect pollination plays an important role in food production.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. Canberra and its surrounding region supporting a thriving local and sustainable food system that helps fight climate change and build community resilience
2. increases in local food production and support for our rural and urban farmers to implement regenerative and ecologically sustainable farming practices
3. to ensure that everyone in the ACT can access affordable, fresh and nutritious local food
4. to enable greater supply of plant-based foods to improve human health and animal welfare while reducing the environmental impacts of food production
5. policies and programs to facilitate increased community access to public land for food production, including stronger government support for city farms, community gardens, market gardens, nature strip planting, commercial gardens, aquaponics and community orchards
6. urban developments to set aside space for community gardens
7. support local First Nations communities to harvest on country, and re-establish and grow traditional farming practices and enterprises
8. programs to minimise food wastage, including from food packaging (see also ACT Circular Economy Policy)
9. to continue to expand provisions for animal welfare in food production, and prevent the establishment of inhumane industrialised, large-scale intensive animal husbandry in the ACT
10. strengthen the local food system of the Canberra region by providing support for programs that foster collaboration and cooperative organising by local and regional farmers, food manufacturers, and food supply logistics
11. to support the increased use of local compost for fertilisers
12. to reduce the use of pesticides and encourage pollinator-friendly gardens
13. urban planning and government landscape planning to factor in pollinator-friendly habitat
14. to protect farmland and water resources from competing development and use
15. to ensure that the Territory plan and district strategies identify prime agricultural land and reflect sustainable food production potential in zoning and district strategy policies and goals
16. to protect the natural ecosystems that underpin the production of food in the ACT, including grasslands and woodlands that provide pollinators with clean air, water sources and nutrients
17. water security for sustainable agricultural production
18. to ensure children in the ACT are educated about growing and preparing food through school gardening and cooking programs

19. to support secondary and tertiary education programs on agriculture
20. support community engagement campaigns that promote the importance of and pride in local food and buying local, help people know how to access affordable local food and support everyone to be able to learn how to cook

WATER

Water is vital to all life. Waterways are the lifeblood of our city and have important cultural value to the First Nations people of the ACT. With a growing population, and with climate change projections for the ACT predicting hotter summers and more severe droughts, we need to be strategic and efficient in how we use and manage water.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has a right to clean water to meet daily needs
2. water catchments should be managed in partnership with First Nations in recognition of the cultural value of waterways for First Nations people and the cultural knowledge they hold
3. water and water catchments should be managed in a way that safeguard ecological and human health
4. water management should be evidence-based and informed by key stakeholders
5. water is best managed at the catchment scale, recognising the linkages between land use, vegetation, surface water and groundwater
6. the ACT has an obligation to contribute to reforms in the wider Murray-Darling Basin and to demonstrate leadership in water efficiency and management
7. the ACT has an obligation to ensure that water leaving the ACT is of the same or better quality than water entering the ACT
8. investment in and management of water infrastructure must consider climate change projections and impacts on ecosystem health
9. large scale water usage should be priced to reflect the full social and environmental costs of water extraction, transport, use and treatment
10. trees, vegetation and water bodies play an important role in improving soil health, cooling the city, retaining water in the landscape and managing microclimate and urban amenity
11. the ACT's water resources must remain publicly owned, with transparent management to ensure an equitable pricing structure and integration of environmental objectives.
12. The ACT's urban lakes and ponds also have ecological functions and biodiversity and need to be managed accordingly.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. healthy urban and regional waterways that support a diversity of life, improve water quality, support health and wellbeing, particularly for adjoining residents, and offer safe and sustainable public amenity
2. culturally sensitive waterway management in partnership with First Nations people

3. a comprehensive water management approach based on a vision for long-term ecological health, human health and water security in a changing climate
4. a clear framework for setting water restrictions that takes into consideration climate change projections, such as more frequent and severe droughts and increasing levels of volatility in year-to-year rainfall
5. adequate environmental flows to ensure the health of ecological systems and biodiversity
6. drinking water in the ACT to meet or exceed national and international quality standards
7. ACT water catchments to have well-resourced, best practice management
8. community participation in catchment management through partnerships and funding with community organisations, such as ACT ParkCare, Landcare ACT, FrogWatch, citizen science programs and Catchment Groups
9. water-sensitive urban design principles to be embedded into urban planning and development and enforced
10. continued interjurisdictional and regional collaboration and coordination to improve water quality and environmental flows in the Murray-Darling Basin, including in the Upper Murrumbidgee River
11. programs to encourage water efficiency and re-use in homes, offices, industry and agriculture
12. use of pumped hydropower technology only where it is 'off-river', to prevent ecological damage; and implementation of clear guidelines about ecological requirements for pumped hydro
13. a long-term strategic approach to improving water quality in lakes, ponds and waterways
14. restoration of local waterways to provide habitat, improve soil health, manage water flow, improve amenity and retain water in the landscape.

GLOSSARY

Cool burns: Cool burns, also known as cultural-ecological burns, are a specific method of First Nations cultural burning. Cool burns are generally of low intensity and severity. The main purpose of a cool burn is cultural renewal; other outcomes can include renewal of native vegetation, protection of culturally significant sites, reduction of bushfire hazards, and maintenance of groundwater sources and water catchment areas (Williamson 2015, p. 21).

Ecological connectivity: Ecological connectivity is the degree to which separate patches of habitat are connected. This connectivity is important because it enables crucial ecological process to occur, such as seed dispersal, gene flow between populations and animal migration. Methods to increase ecological connectivity include establishing landscape corridors and stepping-stone reserves.

Ecological footprint: An ecological footprint is a calculation of the amount of land and water required to support demand for goods and services and our use of resources. It also takes into account the area needed to absorb our waste (including greenhouse gases). The ecological footprint provides a calculated measure of the extent of human impact on the earth, determines our relative consumption of global resources, and helps us understand the link between our lifestyles and the environment; providing us with a means by which to assess the sustainability of our lifestyle (ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment 2015, p. 1).

First Nations peoples: The ACT Greens use the term 'First Nations peoples' to refer to all nations and clan groups that occupied the land that would become Australia prior to colonisation. First Nations peoples never ceded their sovereignty and continue their connections with land, water, sky, culture and community. The ACT Greens acknowledge the limitations of any term in accounting for the complexity and diversity of First Nations identities and experiences.

Integrated Pest Management: "...an effective combination of a wide range of management methods including plant resistance, refuge crops and effective sampling to name just a few. It is an ecosystem approach to crop production and protection that combines different management strategies and practices to grow healthy crops and minimise the use of pesticides. IPM control methods include, but are not limited to: ...chemical control (as a last resort)." CSIRO (<https://www.csiro.au/en/research/animals/pests/integrated-pest-management>).

Local First Nations community: Local First Nations community refers to all First Nations peoples who live, reside and/or work in the ACT community.

Pests: Per the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 this means:

1. in relation to an animal, plant or thing – any animal, plant or other biological entity that injuriously affects the physical condition, worth or utility of the first-mentioned animal or plant or of that thing, or
2. in relation to a place – an animal, plant or other biological entity that injuriously affects the use or enjoyment of that place.

Precautionary principle: The precautionary principle states that, 'where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation' (Principle 15 of the 1992 Rio Declaration from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development).

Social cost of carbon: The social cost of carbon is an estimate of the actual economic, social and environmental costs of emitting greenhouse gases in dollar terms.

Traditional Custodians: The ACT uses the phrase 'Traditional Custodians' instead of 'Traditional Owners' to refer to the First Nations peoples of this region, due to the land title system in the ACT. In the ACT, land title holders do not own the land, but hold up to 99-year leases on the land. The Ngunnawal Peoples are recognised by the ACT Government as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

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