



## **Our Future, Our Environment**

### **How do the parties rate on environment issues October 2012**

The Conservation Council ACT Region has been protecting the environmental interests of Canberra and the surrounding region since 1979.

There is broad and enduring public support for action to protect the environment. Research consistently demonstrates that the public considers protecting the environment and proactive managing of natural resources should be a priority for the ACT Government.

Our unique environment underpins the social and economic fabric of the ACT. Our vision is for the highest quality environment for the Australian Capital Territory Region. We support a compact, ecologically sustainable, liveable and socially inclusive Canberra which embodies the principles of carbon neutrality and zero waste.

We sent the three major parties sixteen key measures on biodiversity, climate change, planning, transport, water, waste and sustainability to provide solutions to the challenges Canberra is facing now and into the future.

We received detailed responses from the Australian Labor Party and the ACT Greens and no response from the Canberra Liberals. Our scores are based on responses from the parties and other published documents. Against the sixteen measures for a total of 100 points we rated the parties as:

<b>Canberra Liberals</b>	<b>ACT Greens</b>	<b>Australian Labor Party</b>
20	75	60

A highlight of the election policies is the plans put forward by the ALP and the ACT Greens on how to deliver our climate change target of 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. Both the ALP and Greens support a 90% renewable energy target by 2020. The Canberra Liberals have not outlined any target on climate change or any measures to reduce emissions; this is a very serious omission, particularly as at the last election the Liberals had a strong commitment to a 30% reduction in emissions.

Another key issue is the commitment of both the Liberals and the Greens to establish a single Biodiversity Conservation Service which undertakes and integrates policy, planning, research and management of ACT biodiversity.

The tripartisan support for considering a new Nature Conservation Act early in the next term of the Assembly is very welcome.

*Authorised by Clare Henderson, Executive Director, Childers Street, ACTON, ACT, 2601  
October 2012*

## Scorecard for building a smart, sustainable Canberra

	Labor	Greens	Liberal
<b>Biodiversity Conservation – protecting our unique ecological communities and the Bush Capital</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protect endangered yellow box-red gum woodlands and habitat of locally threatened species including the superb parrot in Kinlyside and Throsby in North Gungahlin as well as additional surrounding areas to ensure connectivity with existing reserves – at least 700 hectares (10 points)</li> </ul>	7	8	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>through a new Nature Conservation Act create a single Biodiversity Conservation Service which undertakes and integrates policy, planning, research and management of ACT biodiversity (10 points)</li> </ul>	0	10	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase biodiversity funding by 5% annually for the next four years on 2011-12 levels (10 points)</li> </ul>	0	5	3
<b>Climate Change – a regional, national and global challenge</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support the 40% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and outline how it will be achieved (10 points)</li> </ul>	10	10	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at least double ACT current renewable energy commitments of 280 MW and commit to a 100% renewable energy target by 2020 (10 points)</li> </ul>	9	9	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>deliver 22% of the 40% greenhouse gas reduction by 2016 through energy efficiency measures (5 points)</li> </ul>	5	2	0
<b>Planning – the right things in the right places</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase infill to at least 50 per cent of all new residential development (5 points)</li> </ul>	5	5	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide funding to allow the Conservation Council to provide services to facilitate good planning outcomes and increase community awareness of planning issues (5 points)</li> </ul>	3	5	0
<b>Transport – connecting people and places</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>build a dedicated, light rail compatible, rapid transport link in 2013-14 (5 points)</li> </ul>	5	5	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>250 km of new footpaths, shared paths and cycleways to support walking, cycling and access to public transport (5 points)</li> </ul>	3	4	3
<b>Waste – being efficient through closed-loop systems</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>achieve a recycling rate of 90% by 2016 (5 points)</li> </ul>	2	2	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create a new waste authority (5 points)</li> </ul>	0	0	0
<b>Water – smart use of a scarce resource</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>continue to construct wetlands on major drainage channels to reduce water pollution (5 points)</li> </ul>	5	5	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>require all new developments to include measures for water conservation and water quality enhancement (5 points)</li> </ul>	3	1	0
<b>Governance for a Smarter, Sustainable Canberra</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sustainability (Triple Bottom Line) assessment of major policy, legislation, programs and projects (3 points)</li> </ul>	3	3	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>require all Government Directorates and agencies to prepare sustainable procurement plans by the end of 2013-14 to be published annually under ESD annual reporting requirements (2 points)</li> </ul>	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>20</b>