



**CONSERVATION COUNCIL**  
ACT REGION

## **Our Future, Our Environment**

### **A 2012 ACT Election Agenda**

### **September 2012**

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

The 2012 ACT Election provides exciting opportunities for visionary environmental leadership.

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 list 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 will be preparing a scorecard on party responses to each of the specific measures to achieve key outcomes. Each measure has been given a number of points that will be gained if parties commit fully to the measure. Points will be awarded if it is partially delivered. Points will also be awarded if another policy measure delivers a similar outcome. The maximum score is 100 points.

We will also provide analysis on the party's environment policies with a particular focus on how much its policies will:

- enhance and protect ACT's unique biodiversity
- reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in the next term of Government such we are well on the path to achieve the 40% greenhouse gas reduction target by 2020, and
- help build a Smarter, Sustainable Canberra.

*Authorised by Clare Henderson, Executive Director, Childers Street, ACTON, ACT, 2601,  
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## **Key measures:**

We call on all parties to deliver the following **within the next term of Government:**

### **Biodiversity Conservation – protecting our unique ecological communities and the Bush Capital**

- 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)
- 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)
- increase biodiversity funding by 5% annually for the next four years on 2011-12 levels (10 points)

### **Climate Change – a regional, national and global challenge**

- support the 40% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and outline how it will be achieved (10 points)
- at least double ACT current renewable energy commitments of 280 MW and commit to a 100% renewable energy target by 2020 (10 points)
- deliver 22% of the 40% greenhouse gas reduction by 2016 through energy efficiency measures. (5 points)

### **Planning – the right things in the right places**

- increase infill to at least 50 per cent of all new residential development (5 points)
- provide funding to allow the Conservation Council to provide services to facilitate good planning outcomes and increase community awareness of planning issues (5 points)

### **Transport – connecting people and places**

- build a dedicated, light rail compatible, rapid transport link in 2013-14 (5 points)
- 250 km of new footpaths, shared paths and cycleways to support walking, cycling and access to public transport (5 points)

### **Waste – being efficient through closed-loop systems**

- achieve a recycling rate of 90% by 2016 (5 points)
- create a new waste authority (5 points)

### **Water – smart use of a scarce resource**

- continue to construct wetlands on major drainage channels to reduce water pollution (5 points)
- require all new developments to include measures for water conservation and water quality enhancement (5 points)

### **Governance for a Smarter, Sustainable Canberra**

- sustainability (Triple Bottom Line) assessment of major policy, legislation, programs and projects (3 points)
- 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)