

EIANZ

2020 ACT Election Statement

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (ACT Division) seeks a strong commitment from all political parties and politicians contesting the 2020 ACT Election to give priority to the issues outlined in this statement. As we emerge from the urgent threats of COVID-19, there is a significant opportunity for the ACT to undertake, and advocate for, a 'green recovery' where investment is focussed on sustainable initiatives.

We broadly endorse the recommendations contained within the ACT 2019 State of the Environment report. We recognise that in many areas, most notably renewable energy targets and climate change, the ACT has been a leader within Australia. We believe that the ACT should aim to lead in all areas of sustainability and the environment.

We call on all political parties and candidates to commit to:

- **Accelerating climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, including:**
 - Accelerating measures that reduce emissions from transport and buildings.
 - Increasing efforts that facilitate moving to a more circular economy.
 - Increasing resilience of the ACT community to climate change impacts.
- **Increasing protections for the ACT's biodiversity and natural capital, including:**
 - Increasing funding for conservation and protected area management.
 - Reducing air, water and land pollution.
 - Reducing threats to biodiversity, such as land clearing and introduced species.
- **Ensuring that everyone is involved in shaping the future of the ACT, including:**
 - Increasing environmental education and community engagement.
 - Providing opportunities for a greater diversity of voices included in decision-making, particularly First Nations people, women and minority groups.
 - Increasing the transparency and accountability of Governments and business to ensure that community trust is maintained.

Specifically, the most urgent and highest priority actions that the ACT should commit to are:

- Accelerating the light rail network and increasing electric vehicle use.
- Working with the Commonwealth and the NSW Government collaboratively to undertake strategic planning and environmental impact assessment.
- Increasing the resilience of ACT's built environment and our community.

We believe that competent and ethical environmental practitioners are part of the solution, and we call for commitments to mandate the use of suitably qualified and experienced practitioners in environmental approvals, monitoring, reporting and management.

ABOUT EIANZ

Founded in 1987, the EIANZ is the peak professional association for environmental practitioners in Australia and New Zealand. The Institute advocates environmental knowledge and awareness, advancing ethical and competent environmental practice. Our 2,500 members and certified practitioners come from all areas of environmental practice, including government, academia, consulting and industry. We require that our members and certified practitioners adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct.

EIANZ acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the traditional custodians of Australia and Māori as the tangata whenua (original people of the land) of Aotearoa New Zealand.

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