

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING FORUM



ACT
Government

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S KEY ACTIVITIES REPORT JANUARY TO MARCH 2017

FINGERLINGS RELEASE

In the first week of January, EPSDD joined the National Capital Authority and Canberra Fisherman's Club to release more than 60,000 fingerlings in our local lakes as part of the ACT Fish Stocking Plan. Recreational fishers and the environment will benefit from the release of 30,610 Murray Cod into Lake Burley Griffin, 15,909

Golden Perch fingerlings into Lake

Tuggeranong and 8163 Murray Cod fingerlings into both Gungahlin Pond and Yerrabi Pond.



NEW GRANT PROGRAMS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLEANTECH ORGANISATIONS

Two new grant programs were announced in early January providing a boost for renewable energy and cleantech organisations in Canberra. Funding for the new Direct Grants scheme and the Innovation Connect Grants 'Renewables Stream' will come from the \$12 million industry-funded Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF) and will help grow the renewable energy industry here in the ACT.

NATURE BASED TOURISM

In February, an innovative tender process was announced inviting external business parties to collaborate with ACT Parks and Conservation on a range of nature based tourism opportunities, including utilising historic cottages and developing behind the scenes experiences showcasing our beautiful reserves. The tenders will be open until 16 March 2017.

FOY PROPOSED PLASTIC FACILITY

In February, an expert panel was established to thoroughly assess any potential impacts associated with the proposal for a facility to be built in Hume which would convert waste plastic to liquid fuel. The ACT Government is committed to diversifying our economy and attracting new businesses which improve our waste management, but will also appropriately assess new proposals and technologies. The panel includes highly qualified individuals

including a former senior official from NSW Environment Protection Authority and South Australia's former Chief Health Officer. Visit

www.planning.act.gov.au for information about two community meetings to be held on next week on 6 and 7 March.



DRAFT LOWER COTTER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The draft management plan for the Lower Cotter Catchment is out for consultation over February and March. Proposals in the draft plan build on the extensive work the ACT Government, together with Greening Australia and community volunteers, have done to recover the landscape since the area was devastated by the 2003 bushfires.

Visit **[www.yoursay](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au)**

[act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au) to find out more before 10 March 2017.



WEATHER STATIONS UNVEILED

preparedness work get a little easier the future with the unveiling in early February of four new portable automated weather stations which help measure the level

of fire danger during the bushfire season. The stations also help to plan prescribed burns. The stations record information such as humidity to wind speed to soil temperature.

EASTERN GREY KANGAROO MANAGEMENT PLAN

In early February, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna Dr Annie Lane released for community consultation a new plan of management for Eastern Grey Kangaroos. The plan presents data and research about the environmental, social and economic impacts of overabundant kangaroo populations and the need to manage kangaroo numbers. Visit www.environment.act.gov.au for further information.

CURTIN SHOPS DA

The planning and land authority decision for the Curtin shops DA was announced in late February. The development application for a mixed use residential development at the shopping centre was refused based on a number of issues including its size, character and scale being inconsistent with the existing lower rise character of the shops. The proposal attracted almost 500 public submissions, and petition with 2000 signatures.

HORNSDALE WIND FARM

The ACT started receiving power in late February from the Hornsdale wind farm with the facility set to generate electricity to power more than 57,000 Canberra homes. It means we are now sourcing 35% of our electricity from renewables – up from 20% – and are well on our way to our target of 100% by 2020.

H2OK WATER QUALITY CAMPAIGN

Only rain down the stormwater drain’ is the take home message of a new education program aimed at improving the health of waterways in Canberra and the surrounding region including Queanbeyan, Cooma and Yass.

Senator for the ACT Zed Seselja and Minister Gentleman, launched the ‘H2OK: Keeping our waterways healthy’ program as part of a joint Federal and ACT Government initiative to improve water quality in the ACT and wider Murray-Darling Basin in late February.

The biggest cause of water pollution in our lakes and waterways is contaminated stormwater run-off from our streets, house blocks, development sites, retail and industrial areas. Visit www.act.gov.au/h2ok.

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

More than 280,000 visitors recycled a record breaking 10 tonnes of mixed recycling through yellow top bins provided throughout the Multicultural Festival. Ten tonnes of recycling is more than double any previous year’s figures, showing the Canberra community understands the importance of reducing our ecological footprint. This is the sixth year the festival organisers and Actsmart have teamed up to ensure as much recycling is recovered from one of Canberra’s biggest events.

