

## Request for Costing an Election Commitment

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| <b>Name of proposal:</b>   | Adapting to climate change  |
| Person requesting costing:   | Shane Rattenbury MLA  |
| Date of request:   | 10 October 2024   |
| Summary of proposal:   | <p>To keep our city cool and our community safe as the climate changes we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plant at least 20,000 street trees each year;</li> <li>• build shaded and weather resistant bus shelters across Canberra;</li> <li>• trial city cooling measures like misting, green facades and water features; and</li> <li>• increase funding for the bushfire preparedness and response.</li> </ul>  |
| Issue the proposal will address:   | <p>We know our climate is changing. We are already facing the impacts of climate change including increased bushfire risk, more heat waves, and increased intensity of storms and rainfall events.</p> <p>These impacts are unavoidable, but the consequences for our community can be reduced by taking action now.</p> <p>The ACT Greens have a clear plan for preparing for these unavoidable impacts to keep our city cool and our community safe as the climate changes.</p> |
| Proposal's public announcement details (media release or policy statement published on a party website) <sup>1</sup> : | <a href="https://greens.org.au/act/policies/climate#adapting">https://greens.org.au/act/policies/climate#adapting</a>   |

### What are the key assumptions that have been made in the proposal?

**Note:** The costing will be developed on the basis of information and assumptions provided in the costing request. The professional judgment of the Under Treasurer will determine whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the proposal.

#### Plant at least 20,000 street trees each year

The estimated cost of planting an additional 5000 trees per year (based on average BAU planting of 15,000 per year) is estimated at an average of \$3 million per year, totaling \$10.5 million from January 2025 to June 2028. We have classified this as expense funding.

#### Build shaded and weather resistant bus shelters across Canberra

The estimated cost is \$5 million for 200 shelters, based on an average total cost of \$25,000 per bus shelter. Product websites indicate a shelter cost is approximately \$10,000-20,000, and the remaining cost is included to cover installation. We have used a 20 year depreciation cost for the

<sup>1</sup> As per Part 2, section 5 of the *Election Commitments Costing Act 2012*

bus shelters.

Trial city cooling measures like misting, green facades and water features

\$1 million for city cooling trials, which could be delivered as capital upgrades or partnership with external entities. Additional funding could be sought from external partners, but has not been factored into this cost estimate. This is a capped amount intended to cover a range of trials as determined by EPSDD, TCCS and CRA. We have costed this as \$500K for expenses and \$500K for capital costs to reflect the potential mix of funding types.

Increase funding for the bushfire preparedness and response

An additional \$10 million over four years would be allocated to boosting fire preparedness and response capability. \$1 million in 2024-25, then \$3 million in the following 3 years. This is all classified as expense funding, for additional staff capacity and training. We haven't reflected as FTEs as we intend it to be used flexibly where it is most effective as determined by PCS and ESA.

What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this proposal and estimated costs each year (if available)?

|                                  | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | Total   |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                  | \$'000  | \$'000  | \$'000  | \$'000  | \$'000  |
| Revenue <sup>(a)</sup>           |         |         |         |         |         |
| Expenses <sup>(a)</sup>          | -2,500  | -6,500  | -6,000  | -6,000  | -21,000 |
| Capital <sup>(a)</sup>           |         | -1,000  | -4,500  |         | -5,500  |
| Depreciation <sup>(a)</sup>      |         |         | -50     | -250    | -300    |
| Offset - Expenses <sup>(a)</sup> |         |         |         |         |         |
| Offset - Capital <sup>(a)</sup>  |         |         |         |         |         |
| Full-time equivalent employees   | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |         |

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses, depreciation or capital outflows. A positive number indicates an increase in revenue or decrease in expenses, depreciation or capital inflows. The expenses row is not to include depreciation costs.

Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal? Please provide links or attach information/data sources referenced.

No

Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?

Capped

Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the proposal? Does the proposal provide additional funding to, or redirect, any existing Commonwealth/State or Territory funding arrangements?

No, although additional funding could be sought from the Commonwealth or other partners.

Will funding/the cost require indexation?

No

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| Who will administer the proposal?   |
| EPSDD/CRA/TCCS  |
| How will the proposal be administered?  |
| Administration costs have not been included and are proposed to be covered through reallocation of existing resources.  |
| Is the proposal part of a broader package? If so, please identify the other elements of the package.  |
| Yes. Other elements are proposed to be delivered within existing resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen protections for street trees.</li> <li>• Require green space and city cooling in new developments.</li> <li>• Establish a Chief Heat Officer to oversee the implementation of heat wave related preparedness, response and recovery efforts.</li> <li>• Develop a Climate and Health Strategy.</li> <li>• Introduce climate-proofing requirements for new houses to ensure they can maintain clean indoor air quality and have insulated slabs, double glazing and light-coloured roofs.</li> <li>• Require new suburbs to maximise solar orientation of blocks.</li> </ul> |
| Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal?</li> <li>– If yes, please specify the key assumptions.</li> </ul>  |
| Apart from the expense funding specified above, administration costs are proposed to be covered through reallocation of existing resources.   |
| Will the proposal generate savings or offsets? If so, please quantify any savings or offsets.   |
| No  |
| Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? If so, will a copy of this material, including any assumptions, be made available to Treasury?  |
| No  |
| What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?  |
| Canberrans will benefit from increased street tree plantings and shade cover, city cooling trials and more bus shelters. These proposals will have a direct positive impact on the liveability of our city during hot months and the ability for people to comfortably wait for buses.  |
| Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?  |
| No  |
| What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?   |
| Plant at least 20,000 street trees each year – From January 2025, ongoing.<br>Build shaded and weather resistant bus shelters across Canberra – planning in 2024-25, installation from July 2025 to June 2027.<br>Trial city cooling measures like misting, green facades and water features – planning in the first  |

half of 2025, then implementation from July 2025 to June 2027.

Increase funding for the bushfire preparedness and response – From January 2025 ongoing.

When is the proposal expected to be fully operational? Please provide details such as the start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc.

Plant at least 20,000 street trees each year – Fully operational from January 2025.

Build shaded and weather resistant bus shelters across Canberra – Fully operational from July 2025 to June 2027.

Trial city cooling measures like misting, green facades and water features – Fully operational from July 2025 to June 2027.

Increase funding for the bushfire preparedness and response – From January 2025 ongoing.

Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?

Tree planting ongoing.

Bus shelters delivered by June 2027.

City cooling trials complete by June 2027.

Bushfire preparedness funding ongoing if required.

Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?

No