**18/200 - ACT’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Interim Targets 2020-2050**

**(refers to 18/383 – Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Principal Target) Amendment Bill 2018 – agreement to introduce)**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary of Impacts** |
| * The proposal seeks to establish interim emissions reduction targets for the ACT between the current targets for 2020 and 2050.
* The proposal will largely result in neutral or positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.
* There are no known implementation risks associated with this proposal.
 |

*Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - Positive.*

**Social**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Access to social networks & community activities**  | * The establishment of interim emission reduction targets has no impact to social networks and community activities.
 |
| **Human rights** | * The establishment of interim emission reduction targets has no impact on human rights.
* Acting on climate change is known to have more positive outcomes on health and wellbeing and support intergenerational equity than failing to act.
 |
| **Indigenous and Multicultural** | * The establishment of interim emission reduction targets has no impact on indigenous and multicultural groups.
 |

**Economic**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ACT Government Budget** | * The establishment of interim emission reduction targets has no impact on the ACT Government Budget.
* Achievement of the targets will be detailed in the final Climate Change Action Plan expected by the end of 2018. Initial macroeconomic modelling suggested additional action to reach the 2030 target can be achieved at a total welfare cost of $5.8 million, assuming current sustainability programs are maintained. There are additional co-benefits to mitigation actions that, when appropriately costed, can be used to determine an offset to the cost of action. Acting to reduce emissions is less expensive than failing to act or delaying action, as first reported in the Garnaut report to the Australian Government in 2011. The ACT has already made economic gains from moving to renewable electricity early; the Climate Change Action Plan will also establish economic opportunities supported by these clear interim targets.
 |
| **Productivity and innovation** | * The establishment of interim emission reduction targets sets a signal to industry and business for the types of innovation and technology supported by the ACT, which may see an increase in productivity from clean technology sectors.
 |
| **Investment and Economic Impacts** | * The establishment of interim emission reduction targets sends a signal to industry and business, along with providing a framework for policy development in planning and transport areas. This may shape investment decisions towards lower emitting options. This is expected to have a neutral to positive impact on the ACT due to flow on impacts.
* Achievement of the targets will be detailed in the final Climate Change Action Plan expected by the end of 2018. Initial macroeconomic modelling suggested additional action to reach the 2030 target can be achieved at a total welfare cost of $5.8 million, assuming current sustainability programs are maintained. There are additional co-benefits to mitigation actions that, when appropriately costed, can be used to determine an offset to the cost of action. Acting to reduce emissions is less expensive than failing to act or delaying action, as first reported in the Garnaut report to the Australian Government in 2011. The ACT has already made economic gains from moving to renewable electricity early; the Climate Change Action Plan will also establish economic opportunities supported by these clear interim targets.
 |

**Environmental**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Biodiversity** | * The establishment of interim emission reduction targets does not have direct impacts on biodiversity.
 |
| **Heritage** | * The establishment of interim emission reduction targets does not have impacts on heritage.
 |
| **Environmental quality** | * The establishment of interim emission reduction targets does not have direct impacts on environmental quality.
* The targets set here are aligned with the scientific analysis of emissions reductions required to remain under a 2 degrees warming scenario. These targets have a positive impact on the environment by limiting emissions into the atmosphere and therefore preventing further warming with flow on consequences to the ACT’s flora and fauna
 |