

# Deb Foskey MLA

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## Environment report overwhelmed by Government gloss

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey expressed her concerns that the important messages in the Commissioner for the Environment's *State of the Environment* report – released today - will be overwhelmed by glossy promotions of ACT Government programs that were a part of it.

“At a time when the Murray River is dying and nearby alpine habitat and local grasslands are threatened, I would hope for strong guidance from the independent Commissioner for the Environment.”

“I was most surprised to see this report almost overwhelmed by one-sided glossy promotions of Government programs that are perhaps steps in the right direction, but small ones.”

“The Commissioner makes the point that as a community with a giant footprint we need to face up to the urgent challenge of living on the planet sustainably. And that we all have a role to play in using less energy, wasting less food, managing our environment and our resources more carefully.”

“But I am yet to discover any calls for the ACT Government to set stronger and more immediate targets (such as intermediate CO2 emissions targets )in order to help us make the changes.

“Nor is there any mention of regulations to make houses more energy efficient, or community wide programs that can help us shift to solar energy or hot water.”

“As an easy to read guide on how we can all do more the report works well. Historically however, the State of the Environment report has been much more valuable as a tool to measure how far we have come and what we have needed to do next” Dr Foskey said.

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