

# Australian Capital Territory

## Contaminated Sites

The Strategic Plan for Contaminated Sites Management was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 20 September 1995. Whilst not a statutory document the Strategic Plan seeks to set out the long term approach of the ACT Government to reduce pollution of land and water and identify and manage contaminated sites.

The Strategic Plan is based on the Australian and New Zealand Guideline for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites, released by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the ANZECC position paper Financial Liability for Contaminated Sites Management.

A contaminated sites unit has been established within the Department of Environment Land and Planning to principally manage contaminated sites in the ACT. Other agencies have been given the responsibility of implementing the various strategies and programs within the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan also seeks to review the current ACT legislation to identify areas of the legislation deficient in relation to contaminated sites management and to develop new legislation to address the management of contaminated sites.

## Ozone Act and Air Pollution Act

Amendments to the *Ozone Act* and *Air Pollution Act* were both introduced into the ACT Legislative Assembly on 23 November 1995. It is expected that both amending bills will be passed by the end of 1995.

### Ozone Act

The proposed amendments to this Act seek to set two deadlines. The first is that from 1 January 1996 any person who extracts Halons is required to deposit them with a Department of Administrative Services Halon Bank established in Canberra.

The second is that from 1 January 1997 it will be an offence to service an installation which utilizes CFC s. This amendment is seeking to put in place the Montreal Protocol on CFC s.

### Pollution Act

Amendments to the range of exemptions under this Act will mean that users of residential wood fires

may now be the recipient of a pollution abatement notice. Previously, the Act did not apply to Solid Wood burning appliances in residential premises

A spokesperson from the Department of Environment Land and Planning has said that the amendments seek to encourage users of private wood fires to keep emission levels low by regular cleaning of the wood fire and chimney and slow burning of the wood.

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# NEW SOUTH WALES

## Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Amendment Act 1995

This Act amends the *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1991*, and the *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Amendment Act 1992* to further extend the operation of the *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1991*.

The Act provides for the extension from 1 October 1995 to 31 May 1996 of:

- \* the operation of those provisions of the Act that were originally due to expire on 1 December 1992; and
- \* the duration of certain licences to take or kill endangered fauna issued under Section 120 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, after the commencement of the *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1991*.

The Government announced on 4 December 1995 that it will be further extending other provisions of the *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1991* until 31 May 1996 to allow for further consultation on the Government's proposed endangered species legislation.

## Forestry Restructuring And Nature Conservation Act 1995

This Act was introduced into the Legislative Assembly in Bill form on 11 October 1995 and