

# Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Appointment 2025

## Disallowable instrument DI2025–44

made under the

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993, s 4 (Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment)

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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### Introduction

This explanatory statement relates to the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Appointment 2025* as made by the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water. It has been prepared in order to assist the reader of the instrument. It does not form part of the instrument and has not been endorsed by the Assembly.

### Overview

Section 4 of the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* (the *Act*) requires the Minister to appoint a person as the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (the **commissioner**). Section 5 of the Act provides that the commissioner must not be appointed for a term longer than 5 years.

The instrument appoints Dr Maxine Cooper as the commissioner until 30 April 2026. Dr Cooper has significant skills, expertise and qualifications in environmental science, governance and public policy.

Dr Maxine Cooper is Adjunct Professor, Faculty Art and Design, University of Canberra, and independent Chair, ACT and Regional Catchment Coordination Group. She is also the independent Chair of the Landcare ACT Board and Deputy Chair, National Landcare Network. Previously she was the Auditor-General for the ACT.

Prior to that appointment, Dr Cooper was the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, and before that, the Head of the ACT Water Security Taskforce. She has held other professional senior executive positions in the ACT Government, Brisbane City Council, New South Wales Government, covering disciplines ranging from auditing and integrity investigations; water planning and management; environmental planning; land and resource management; parks planning and management; urban and regional planning; transport planning; sustainability planning; arts policy, management and grant funding; heritage policy and planning, and

government businesses (tourism, major venues, linen services, cemeteries, nurseries, bus operations).

Dr Cooper has a PhD (Melbourne University); Master of Environmental Design (University of Calgary, Canada); Bachelor of Arts - Urban & Regional Planning from the Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT) (now Curtin University), Western Australia. She is a Fulbright Fellow (USA) and Commonwealth Scholarship holder (Canada) and is a Life Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia and a Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand.

ACT Remuneration Tribunal Determination 4 of 2020 determines the remuneration, allowances and other entitlements of the commissioner.

Under the *Legislation Act 2001*, an appointment to a statutory position is a disallowable instrument and requires consultation with the relevant Legislative Assembly standing committee. In this case, the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services was consulted on Dr Cooper's appointment as commissioner.

#### Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

The *Legislation Act 2001* (Legislation Act) requires a RIS for disallowable instruments subject to specified exceptions. In this case, a RIS is not required because the determination does not impose any appreciable costs on the community or part of the community (see Legislation Act, s 34 (1)).