

To whom it may concern

I write re the 2024-25 ACT budget considerations and in support of the call by the Canberra Environment Not-for-Profit organisations call for increased administration and project funding for the sector, a call released publicly on 1 February 2024.

I write as a long-term resident of Kambah with a keen and active interest in our local community over the more than 40 years I have lived here.

It appears to me that financial support for local community actions both generally and in particular for the southern regions of the ACT, namely the Tuggeranong valley, including Kambah, have declined especially in recent years.

It is of interest to me that in the Not-for-Profit submission (referred to above) there was a call for increased administration support. There is no doubt in my mind this is necessary as I have worked with these organisations, both as a See-Change member but independently on other local projects and the help provided from the 'administrators of these non-profit organizations was significant but not without considerable extra effort on the part of the individuals concerned.

The principle which appears to be behind ACT government cut-backs to administration budgets for non-profit environment groups is that the local community not only has the responsibility to undertake administration work, but the focus of public funds should be upon so-called on-ground 'outcomes', which appears to me to be a failed and unsupported appreciation of the wholeness of how activities are carried out successfully in the community. This principle, which appears to be applied by the ACT government in consideration of funding community organisations, is unsupported and quite biased since for so many different practical reasons, local community members are not in a position to provide all the necessary administration help needed to underpin the work of others in their on-ground local community groups.

It is also an inefficient principle for with the right degree of assistance through paid administration help, the support individual community members receive, when they have the circumstances which enables them to help, can be reflected in improved final outputs.

The question must be asked as to where is the evidence which purportedly supports the (poor) thinking behind this approach of cutting non-profit organization administration allocation of public monies? Indeed, the Territory public sector's very existence is itself evidence that proper administrative achieves positive community outcomes.

From my perspective there is no argument of merit in cutting to the bone access to administration funds for non-profit organizations especially those engaged with environmental matters. I urge the ACT Government to listen to the call for increased financial support from the non-profit environmental groups.

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