

# Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGEE

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Dr Marisa Paterson MLA calls for a carbon footprint calculator to support local business

**Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, local member for Murrumbidgee, will be calling on the ACT Government to develop a carbon footprint calculator for local businesses.**

Dr Paterson is calling on the ACT Government to undertake this initiative through its involvement, as a Founding Member, of the Net Zero Emissions Policy Forum which was established in November 2021. Other Founding Members are South Australia and New South Wales.

Dr Paterson said “there are many carbon calculators available for households and specific for the Australian and ACT contexts. There is also information available to help businesses calculate their carbon footprints. However, there is no single, authoritative source of truth that local, ACT businesses can rely on to help understand their energy costs and from which to implement improvement and upgrades.

“The ACT is committed to achieving zero net emissions, and we’ve already transitioned to 100% renewable electricity. The ACT Government is also committed to supporting local business. The development of an online carbon calculator is a win-win for both. It’s also a win for local businesses who want to reduce their carbon emissions and reduce their financial running costs”.

Local business owner of Wiffens Premium Greengrocers, Ms Ruth Roxburgh welcomes this initiative, stating that: “I want to move our business to carbon neutrality. I believe this is both a moral and an economic imperative as consumers increasingly prioritise the environment when making consumer decisions. However, there is no clear pathway or guidance for businesses to do this provided by the federal or state Governments, just a lot of different companies offering their services locally and overseas. Especially for small and medium businesses it’s a confusing space and small and medium sized businesses lack the capacity and time to calculate their carbon in house or by using consultancy services.

“As a climate leader, the ACT Government is well positioned to provide such a platform and make recommendation for upgrades and improvements to help businesses like mine reduce our footprint and the costs of doing business through increased energy efficiencies. I believe that many ACT businesses want to do more to offset their environmental impact they just need some more assistance in doing this. The proposed carbon calculator will help us do this and help move the ACT towards a more carbon neutral future.”

Statement ends

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