

Planning and Development (ACT Planning Strategy) Notice 2012 (No 1)

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Planning and Development Act 2007, section 106 (Public availability of planning strategy)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the Planning and Development (ACT Planning Strategy) Notice 2012 (No 1).

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3 ACT Planning Strategy

The ACT Planning Strategy attached forms part of this instrument.

Simon Corbell MLA
Minister

31 August 2012

Dr Chris Bourke MLA
Minister

31 August 2012



ACT
Government

Environment and
Sustainable Development



ACT Planning Strategy

Planning for a sustainable city



Authorised by the ACT Parliamentary Counsel—also accessible at www.legislation.act.gov.au

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Acknowledgement

We recognise that the first Australians come from amongst the oldest living cultures in human history and this ACT Planning Strategy pertains to land traditionally inhabited by Aboriginal people. Their ongoing culture is a vital part of our city.

In keeping with the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land of the Australian Capital Territory. We pay respects to the elders of the community and extend this recognition to their descendants. We also extend our respects to other indigenous people from around Australia who now dwell in the Australian Capital Territory.

FOREWORD

In 2013 Canberra will celebrate 100 years as a planned city. This 2012 ACT Planning Strategy builds on a century of planning, respecting the structure inherited from Walter Burley Griffin and the planners who followed him.

This strategy will guide Canberra into its second century as a special and unique place that protects and enhances the things we value and empowers us to confront the social and environmental challenges facing all nations in the 21st century.

During the extensive consultation process we listened to people from all parts of our community—school students, young people, families, seniors, people from different ethnic, religious and community groups. We heard what people value, what they want to keep and what they want to improve.

The messages were clear and have been supported by expert analysis and advice. There is overwhelming support for Canberra to become a more sustainable city. Indeed, there is urgency for change and a call for action and partnerships to deliver change.

Being a planned city, Canberra has key strengths that place it in an excellent position to respond to the challenges facing all Australian cities. Canberra is also at the centre of a region that has many natural and cultural advantages – coastal and mountain landscapes, a variety of produce including cool climate wines, and historic towns and villages. Working with our neighbours, Canberra and the region could take a lead in developing a clean economy, sustainably managing urban settlement and protecting biodiversity.

Together with other key policies under The Canberra Plan, particularly Transport for Canberra and Weathering the Change, this ACT Planning Strategy capitalises on our strengths with actions and measures to chart our success.

This ACT Planning Strategy will take Canberra to 2030 and beyond to 2060 as a sustainable, liveable city where people enjoy living, working and playing; a strategy that recognises Canberra's significant role within the region; a strategy to ensure future generations enjoy the same opportunities we have.



Simon Corbell MLA

Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



The background image is a full-page photograph. It depicts a landscape during the 'golden hour' of sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, horizontal clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and pale blue. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a hill or ridge is visible. On the right side of the ridge, a tall, slender telecommunications tower stands out against the bright sky. The overall mood is serene and expansive.

ACT Planning Strategy at a glance

ACT PLANNING STRATEGY

Overview

The ACT Planning Strategy establishes how our territory will develop into the future to meet the aspirations of the people and the environmental, social and economic challenges of the 21st century. It is based on five outcomes we want to achieve and nine strategies to achieve them. It also addresses the challenges we face in Canberra and how we can meet these.

As we plan for 2030 and consider the city and environment we want to create for 2060, we must decide now what trade-offs we will make to address the challenges ahead. By acting collaboratively with our regional neighbours, using our land and resources efficiently, and building on our key strengths – Canberra’s liveability and knowledge-based economy – we can work to create a more prosperous, sustainable city and region.

This ACT Planning Strategy responds to The Canberra Plan vision and the community values expressed in Time to Talk: Canberra 2030. It has been developed after considerable research and analysis, undertaken as part of the Sustainable future program, and it reinforces the 2004 Canberra Spatial Plan’s intention to develop a more compact and efficient city. It also responds to feedback from consultation on the draft ACT Planning Strategy.

This Strategy sets out clear actions to deliver five outcomes, each of which reflects the intent of The Canberra Plan. Some of these actions are immediate and urgent to initiate change; others will commence and develop over the next 20 years and build on our progress. These actions are ordered under nine planning strategies to ensure continuity and consistency in how we manage change. We will track how well these actions work to deliver the outcomes.

Under the ACT Government’s The Canberra Plan and together with policies on transport, climate change, energy, social equity, health and affordability, this Strategy will guide the planning and development of Canberra to ‘be recognised throughout the world as a truly sustainable and creative city.’



Outcomes for 2030

To ensure we deliver the Canberra we want in 2030 we have set a direction. We will monitor how successfully our policies and actions achieve that direction.

The direction is set out in the following five outcomes, which reflect the vision in The Canberra Plan and what city the community have said they want in 2030. These outcomes are clear targets, each with several indicators to tell us if we are on course to achieve them.

Monitoring and reviewing trends annually is important to chart our course, but change, especially change for a more sustainable future, takes time. We will therefore evaluate our progress in five years when the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government and the community can consider this progress and if there is any need to adjust the Strategy.

A In 2030 Canberra will be a city that makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.

INDICATORS

- The ACT State of the Environment report shows continuously improving trends in the seven 'headline measures', including the care of the land, water consumption, biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, climate effects, waste and ecological footprint.
- The proportion of new housing delivered through urban intensification is 50% or more.
- There is greater diversity in the types of dwellings within each district in Canberra with an increasing percentage of attached housing.

B In 2030 Canberra will be a city where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic and cultural life.

INDICATORS

- Transport for Canberra actions 1, 2, 3 and 8 are progressively implemented. (These actions will ensure there is better integration between transport and land use planning. The focus of these actions is to create alternative options to the car for commuters.)
- The diversity of facilities and functions within centres increases and there is a trend for these to be distributed across each district.
- An increasing number of children and adults across all age cohorts participate in sufficient physical activity every day.

C In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of an innovative, prosperous region that has established a diverse 'clean' economy and has a wide choice in jobs and lifestyles.

INDICATORS

- There is sustained growth in employment in the ACT and across the region with an increasing proportion of jobs in the private sector.
- An increasing number of jobs in the ACT and region are in the knowledge economy sectors including businesses orientated towards 'clean tech' and environmental sustainability.
- An increasing proportion of the population in the ACT and across the region has post-secondary education.

D In 2030 Canberra will be the 'capital in the bush', recognised for the quality of its public places and buildings that reflect its unique climate, character and identity.

INDICATORS

- There is an increasing number of recognised, exemplar developments with integrated public realm spaces, roads and/or buildings in Canberra.
- The environmental sustainability and quality of design and construction is increased, with a growing proportion of new and existing public and commercial buildings achieving 6 star Greenstar or equivalent.
- The number of tourists visiting Canberra and the region continues to increase each year, with tourist spending increasing its contribution to Gross Territory Product.

E In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of a region that demonstrates the benefits of good stewardship of the land, its resources and the beauty of its rivers, mountains and plains.

INDICATORS

- Land take per person in the ACT continues to reduce from 480ha per thousand people.
- Involvement in natural resource management activities per person increases annually.

Strategies and actions

Nine strategies direct the change we need if we are to achieve the future we want. With each strategy there is a list of actions – some are new, others continue from current work; some are urgent, others important to consolidate progress. Only the key actions are listed below (refer to Strategies and Actions for full list).

1 Create a more compact, efficient city by focusing urban intensification in town centres, around group centres and along the major public transport routes, and balancing where greenfield expansion occurs.

KEY ACTIONS

- Prepare a master plan for City to articulate the community aspirations and the desired urban quality for this pre-eminent centre.
- Revise both the existing Woden and Belconnen town centre master plans, extending the areas to incorporate transport and community facilities.
- Develop detailed plans and policies for urban intensification of the Northbourne Avenue rapid transit corridor.

2 Improve everyone's mobility and choice of convenient travel by integrating the design and investment of the various networks and transport systems with the land uses they serve.

KEY ACTIONS

- Through the process of preparing master plans, progressively revise car parking requirements to support changes in people's travel behaviour.
- Revise the Territory Plan to enforce the transport and road hierarchy set out in Transport for Canberra.
- Start transport and land use investigations to address the feasibility of extending the rapid transit routes from Northbourne, along Constitution and Adelaide avenues.

3 Provide more cost effective and sustainable living options by improving the existing housing stock and establishing more choice in housing types in a variety of locations.

KEY ACTIONS

- In preparing master plans, identify opportunities in urban intensification areas for partnerships to develop exemplar projects with more affordable dwellings and public housing.
- Investigate a schedule of incentives to reward residential developments that incorporate 'universal' dwelling design, more affordable housing and innovations that will improve environmental sustainability.

4 Ensure everyone has convenient access to a range of facilities, services and opportunities for social interaction by reinforcing the role of group and local centres as community hubs.

KEY ACTIONS

- Prepare a community facilities strategic plan that considers the community's requirements in both greenfield estates and urban intensification areas, to ensure social equity across Canberra.
- As part of preparing master plans, identify opportunities for mixed use developments to incorporate community facilities.

5 Provide vibrant, pleasant urban parks and places for everyone to enjoy by ensuring they are safe and accessible for the most vulnerable in our community.

KEY ACTIONS

- Develop and incorporate into the Territory Plan an age- and child-friendly design code relevant to Canberra.
- Map and digitise the public realm condition and uses, to inform management plans, maintenance regimes and budget funding processes.
- Through the process of preparing master plans and concept plans, establish an integrated approach to the development of new parks and squares, the renewal of existing areas and public realm maintenance regimes.

6 Invest in design that will ensure urban change creates amenity, diversity, a more sustainable built form and adds to Canberra's landscape setting.

KEY ACTIONS

- Establish a design review panel chaired by the Government Architect to provide advice on major public projects.
- Investigate a schedule of awards and incentives that acknowledge and reward design excellence and innovation in measures to increase sustainability performance in commercial and residential projects.
- Evaluate the Territory Plan residential and commercial codes in delivering the sustainability outcomes necessary to support Weathering the Change, the ACT Government's policy on climate change.

7 Improve the city's efficiency, resilience to change and environmental sustainability by designing and incorporating innovative technologies and 'clean' initiatives into the physical infrastructure.

KEY ACTIONS

- Further invest in Virtual ACT to map and digitise information on the condition of Canberra's civil infrastructure to inform and coordinate decisions to upgrade or replace assets.
- Develop a system of environmental performance indicators to inform decisions on public works.
- Prepare strategic plans for the urban area that create wildlife and vegetation links to improve ecosystem services.

8 Value the land and natural resources of the region by working collaboratively to manage urban growth, ensure connectivity and continuity in the natural systems and conserve, where appropriate, agriculturally productive land.

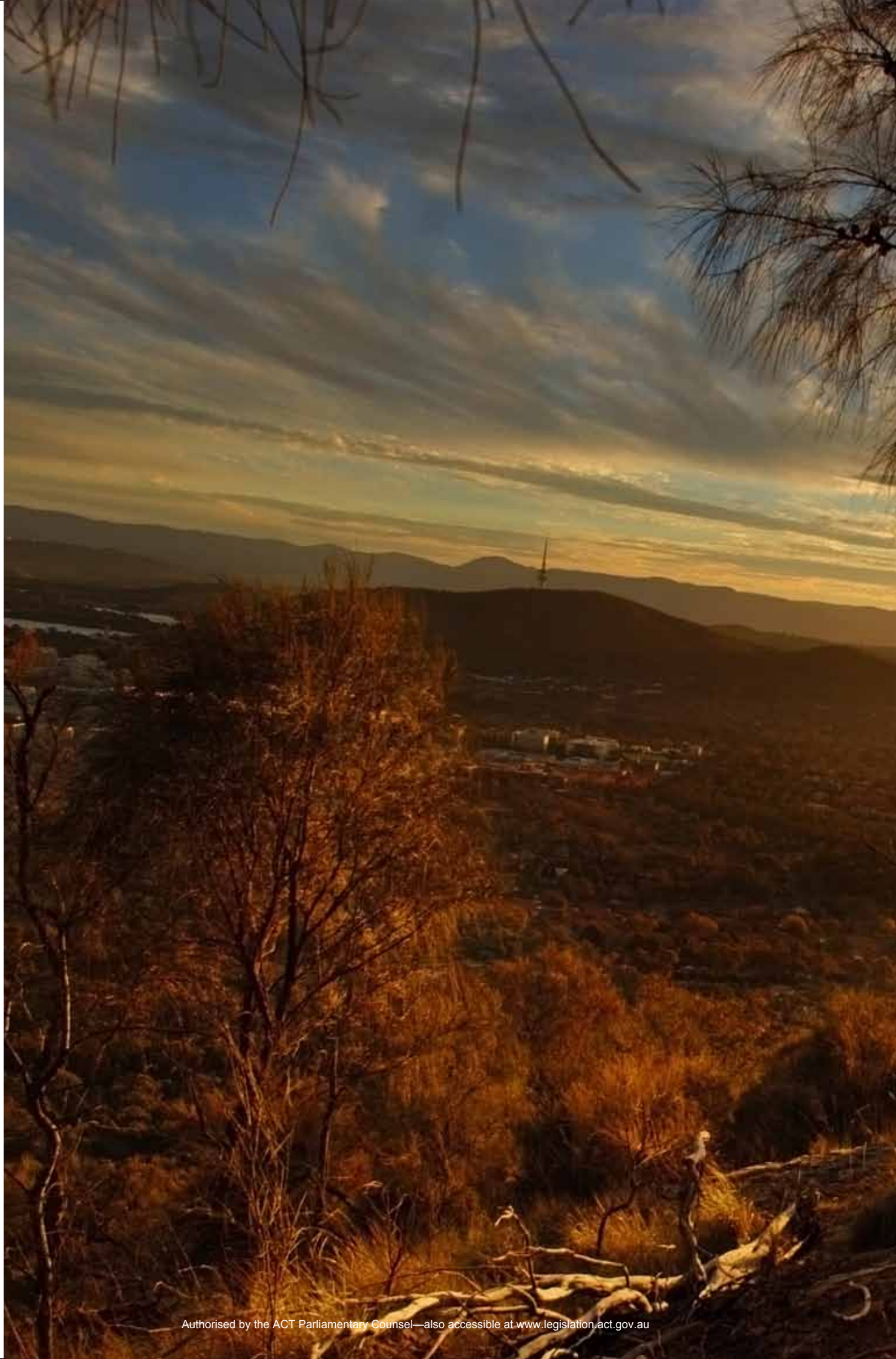
KEY ACTIONS

- Partner with the region to prepare the NSW/ACT Canberra and Region Strategic Plan – Land Use and Infrastructure, in accordance with the December 2011 ACT and NSW Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Collaboration.
- Undertake a study on local food production to better understand how this industry can be enhanced.
- Initiate a study to assess the issues, best uses and management for the lands on the city's western boundary.

9 Facilitate the development of a more prosperous region and a diverse economy by enhancing our travel and information networks and creating opportunities for a range of new enterprises.

KEY ACTIONS

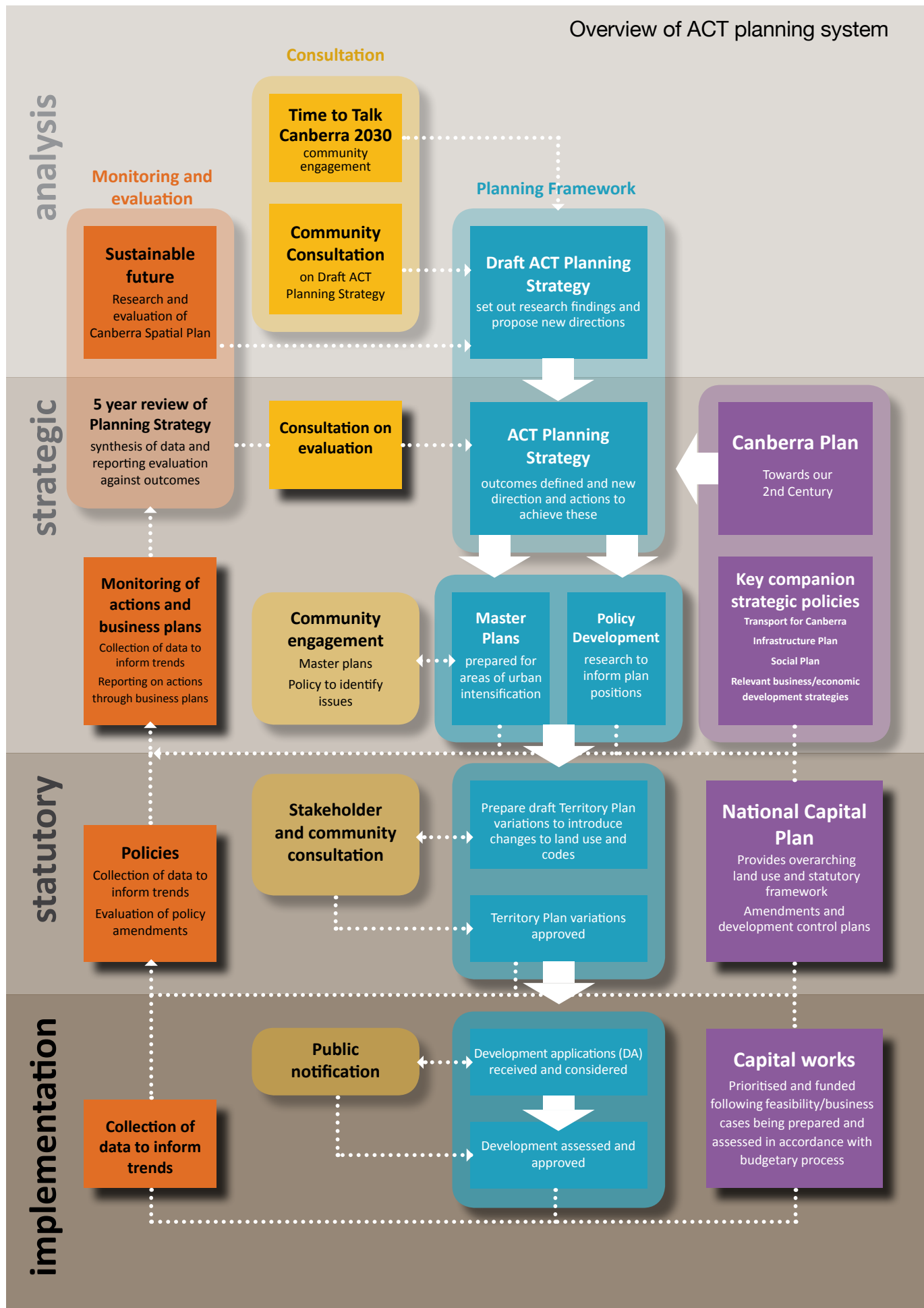
- Advance investigations on industrial/employment lands at Symonston, Hume and Beard.
- Facilitate growth and diverse employment opportunities in areas of our key strengths (e.g. in association with the knowledge economy) and where we have emerging capabilities (e.g. 'clean' technologies and the creative sector).
- Continue to promote Canberra's liveability and the lifestyle opportunities in the region to attract and retain a skilled workforce.





Setting the scene

Overview of ACT planning system



PURPOSE AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Purpose of this document

The ACT Planning Strategy (Strategy) is one of many ACT Government policies that inform the future development of Canberra. The Strategy's purpose is to provide guidance to the future spatial planning, development and management of Canberra and the ACT to help achieve the economic, cultural and environmental aspirations of its people.

This Strategy is a policy that:

- outlines where more specific planning and investigation is required
- informs statutory planning policy to deliver change and the outcomes identified in the Strategy
- helps prioritise investment in social and utility infrastructure
- identifies where regional collaboration is important.

This Strategy will give people a better understanding of how change in the ACT will be managed.

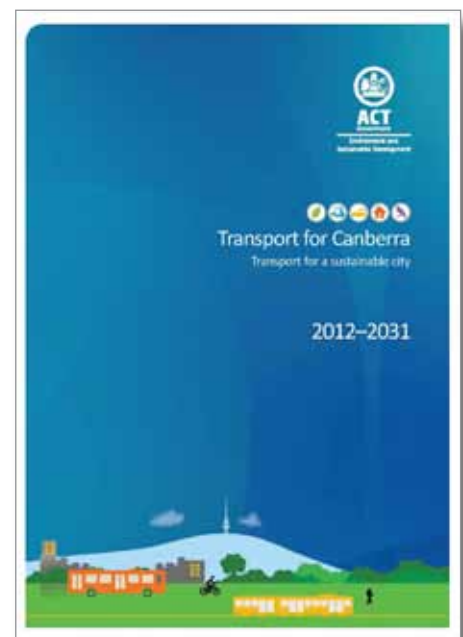
The transitional planning strategy and the Planning and Development Act

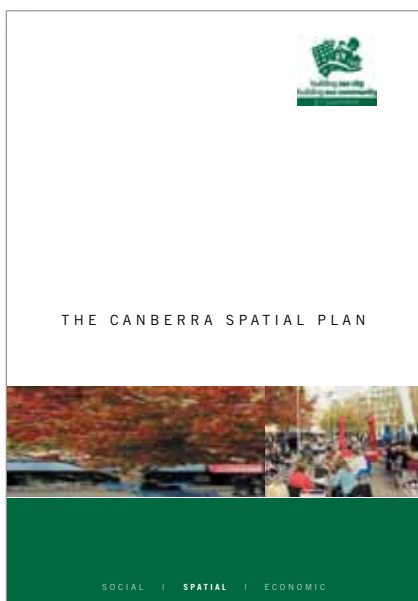
The Canberra Spatial Plan 2004 (Spatial Plan) and Sustainable Transport Plan formed the transitional planning strategy for the ACT under the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (the Act). The Act established the requirement to have a strategy and for the Government Executive to consider reviewing it every five years.

The Spatial Plan has informed decisions about the growth of Canberra since 2004. However, since this time there have been considerable shifts in population growth, climate change, resource security and biodiversity protection. The community has also expressed the need for more direct and focused action. Because of these changes, the ACT Government determined in early 2011 to review the transitional planning strategy.

The Strategy's role as a policy document is outlined under the Act. The Strategy has no statutory effect and, as it is not part of the Territory Plan, it cannot directly affect decisions made under the Territory Plan. The Strategy may be used to amend the Territory Plan's Statement of Strategic Directions, and every major review of the Strategy should trigger consideration of these.

Implementation of the Strategy may require technical amendments or variations to the Territory Plan and perhaps amendments to the National Capital Plan.





The 2004 Canberra Spatial Plan

The Spatial Plan was the first strategic, spatial plan prepared for the ACT since self-government in 1988.

Its key achievements were:

- commencement of planning for development of Molonglo Valley to make the metropolitan area more compact (containing growth) and thereby more sustainable
- investigations of East Lake as a sustainability showcase redevelopment site for residential and mixed uses
- revitalisation of Canberra's CBD for economic prosperity and vitality of city life through a range of measures, including redevelopment and partnership with the Australian National University (ANU)
- addressing the potential land uses in the Majura and Symonston valleys – the Eastern Broadacre study – with a focus on non-commercial employment lands
- neighbourhood planning for Canberra's inner suburbs to identify community values, with consequent revisions to the Territory Plan's land use policies to conserve Canberra's suburban character
- introduction of the *ACT Planning and Development Act 2007* (the Act).

The Spatial Plan aimed to create a more compact city. This Strategy reinforces this aim but sets out new directions to achieve it – and more. This Strategy replaces the Spatial Plan under the Act.

Related ACT plans and policies

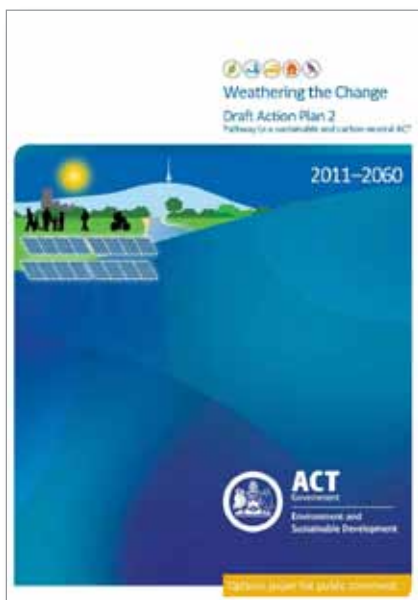
The Canberra Plan

The ACT Government's overarching strategic policy document is The Canberra Plan. First released in 2004, it was updated with a renewed vision and themes in 2008 as The Canberra Plan: Towards Our Second Century. It provides the unifying vision and objectives for the policy plans that sit below it.

Transport for Canberra and Weathering the Change

Transport for Canberra and Weathering the Change are key companion policies to the Strategy. To achieve a city that supports more sustainable behaviours and lifestyles there must be integration of land use, transport, energy, waste and environmental policy and actions.

This Strategy, as the policy document that guides the development of Canberra's urban structure and form, encompasses and gives due regard to the detailed targets and actions set out in these (and other) adopted government policies. Refer to Appendix 1 for a list of other relevant government policies.



Australian Government involvement

The National Capital Plan

Responsibility for Canberra's planning rests with both the Australian Government and the ACT Government. The Australian Government's *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* legislated the establishment of the National Capital Authority (NCA) with its National Capital Plan and an ACT Planning Authority (ACTPLA) with a Territory Plan. In 2011, following the Hawke Review, ACTPLA became part of the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD).

As required by the Australian Government legislation, both plans operate concurrently; however, the Territory Plan cannot be inconsistent with National Capital Plan. The purpose of the National Capital Plan is to ensure Canberra is 'planned and developed in accordance with its national significance' and the NCA retains significant influence in the strategic planning, promotion and development of Canberra as our national capital.

This Strategy adopts the National Capital Plan's principles relevant to guide decision making for the ACT's strategic and statutory spatial planning (refer to Appendix 2).

Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and Canberra's Capital City Strategic Plan

The Australian Government has renewed its investment in planning and managing cities. In 2010 the State of Australian Cities provided a snapshot of the challenges for the future. This was followed by Our Cities – The Challenge of Change and Our Cities – Building a Productive, Sustainable and Liveable Future. In May 2011 the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport launched Our Cities, Our Future – A National Urban Policy to 'focus on better design and management of urban systems to reduce the economic and environmental costs of current urban models'¹.

The Australian Government now places importance on the preparation of strategic plans and regions' investment in infrastructure and good urban design to create attractive and affordable living and business environments.

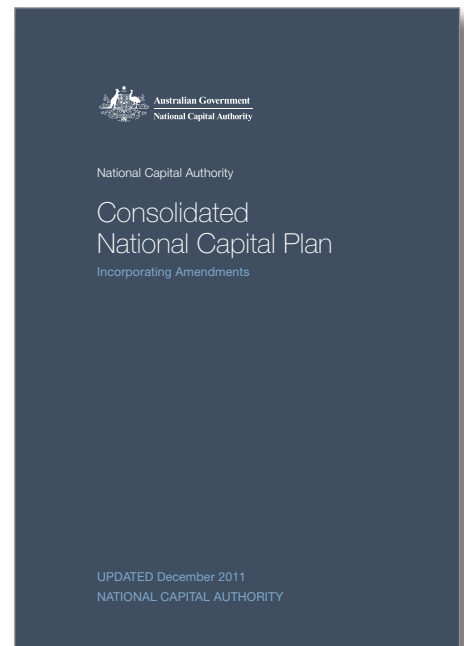
In this context the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council is reviewing every capital city's strategic planning system. Every capital city is required to have a satisfactory Capital City Strategic Plan that meets the COAG criteria. Under The Canberra Plan, this Strategy forms an important component of Canberra's Capital City Strategic Plan.

Regional Development Australia

The Australian Government is promoting consideration of issues in a regional context through the establishment of Regional Development Australia (RDA) bodies.

RDA ACT has developed a Strategic Regional Plan 2011–12 that clearly identifies the unique role Canberra plays as the regional hub for surrounding south-east NSW. Its key messages for achieving a more sustainable, prosperous region are to:

- take a regional focus
- partner with our neighbours
- build a diverse economic base.



COAG 9 criteria for capital city strategic plans – planning systems should:

1. be integrated
2. provide for consistent hierarchy of future oriented and publicly available plans
3. provide for nationally significant economic infrastructure
4. address nationally significant policy issues
5. consider and strengthen the networks between capital cities and major regional centres and other important domestic and international connections
6. provide for balanced, sequenced and evidence based land release and an appropriate balance of infill and greenfields development
7. clearly identify priorities for investment and policy effort by governments and provide an effective framework for private sector investment and innovation
8. encourage world class urban design and architecture
9. provide effective implementation arrangements and supporting mechanisms.

CANBERRA IN 2030—THE VISION AND OUTCOMES



The vision

The ACT Government's vision for Canberra is articulated in The Canberra Plan – Towards our Second Century:

Canberra will be recognised throughout the world as a truly sustainable and creative city; as a community that is socially inclusive – acknowledging and supporting those who are vulnerable and in need and enabling all to reach their full potential; as a centre of economic growth and innovation; as the proud capital of the nation and home of its pre-eminent cultural institutions; and as a place of great natural beauty.

This Strategy is bound to this vision as a key policy document under the Canberra Plan.

Importantly, this vision accords with the community's preferred future scenario for Canberra, established through the community engagement program Time to Talk: Canberra 2030. Both emphasise social equity, sustainability and our role as the nation's capital.

The five outcomes in this Strategy reinforce the Canberra Plan vision and the community's vision for Canberra in 2030.

Outcome A

In 2030 Canberra will be a city that makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.

Outcome B

In 2030 Canberra will be a city where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic and cultural life.

Outcome C

In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of an innovative, prosperous region that has established a diverse 'clean' economy and has a wide choice in jobs and lifestyles.

Outcome D

In 2030 Canberra will be the 'capital in the bush' recognised for the quality of its public places and buildings that reflect its unique climate, character and identity.

Outcome E

In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of a region that demonstrates the benefits of good stewardship of the land, its resources and the beauty of its rivers, mountains and plains.

Time to talk: Canberra 2030 – a future scenario for Canberra in 2030

The Time to Talk: Canberra 2030 conversations have given form to an emerging picture of the way Canberrans want to address the challenges faced by their community. This scenario reflects the complexity of issues raised by the community.

Canberra will maintain its reputation as a ‘capital in the bush’ and as a city known for clean air, open space and convenience. Canberra will be at the centre of a region offering stimulating, highly skilled jobs in a clean, green economy.

Canberra’s open spaces will be leafy places for people to enjoy and to socialise in with friends and neighbours. With infill development, community gardens and play spaces will increase opportunities for people to connect and feel a sense of belonging. These spaces will form **a network of meeting places** connected by walking and cycling links.

To **lower Canberra’s carbon emissions**, the community will invest in sustainable transport and buildings. There will be a shift from its current dependency on the motor vehicle to more sustainable options. Electric cars, walking and cycling and the newly built light rail/sustainable public transport system will make **Canberra less dependent on motor vehicles**. Incentives and planning codes that reduce energy and water use in new and old houses will conserve resources. Older houses will have been retrofitted to improve their environmental performance.

By 2030 new development will create a more compact city. Broad and early community engagement will be led by Government, which will take a more ‘open government’ approach to the future planning of the city. Infill sites for increased density will have been identified for new housing. Increased density will help support more efficient public transport and vibrant neighbourhood centres. There will be more opportunity to work close to home and to access community services and amenities. There will be **more choice in housing**. Infill opportunities will establish greater social mix and richness of neighbourhoods. As well as homes that are appropriately sited and designed there will be ‘green’ work places. Universal design will ensure buildings enable aging in place, have a long life and are appropriate **for the young, older people and those Canberrans with disabilities**.

Canberra’s past as a planned community will also guide its future. New jobs will come through **employment opportunities in green, clean knowledge and service industries**, including opportunities from the national broadband network. The community will build **a sustainable long-term economy not only as a national capital but as a regional hub**. This strong economy will be based on government, policy research, education, science, culture, sport, tourism and the provision of regional services.

Supporting this will be an education system that will attract families to Canberra and offer excellent education from early childhood through to tertiary education. This will help build Canberrans’ skills and bring more people into the local economy of Canberra.

In 2030, policies for the continuous improvement in Canberra’s social and economic sustainability will be co-ordinated across government and all sectors of the community. **Leadership and collaborative partnerships across and between government, business, non-government organisations and the wider community** will be highly valued. The innovation that shaped Canberra’s past will be inherent in guiding its future to make a Canberra that meets our needs in 2030.

WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID



Time to Talk

In 2010 Canberrans participated in a series of activities to discuss the future of their city Time to Talk: Canberra 2030 (Time to Talk).

The Time to Talk Outcomes Report identified what the community valued about Canberra and explored how to address the challenges of a growing and ageing population, environmental resilience and building economic diversity.

Time to Talk enabled people to be part of a positive process about what communities can gain through managing change rather than struggling to adapt.

The community's desired future scenario for Canberra 2030 highlighted to Government the need for action and change. This consultation gives further legitimacy for the directions set out in this Strategy.

Sustainable future program

Addressing sustainability is a complex and difficult process, with no single solution for any place or any community. The ACT Government's Sustainable future program included research and consultation to help us understand the implications for Canberra. The evidence and analysis from this three year program has been crucial to informing this Strategy.

To define the issues and start the discussion, some of Australia's leading thinkers, community members and government and industry representatives were brought together in a series of workshops through 2008.

The Sustainable future Workshops Findings Report synthesised these workshops and received public comment that included:

- acknowledgement that solutions must be multi-faceted
- the critical need for accountability and open governance with an emphasis on collaboration
- recognising the most significant barrier to change is outmoded thinking.

Further research in 2009 and 2010 broadened the evidence base. This work considered community formation in greenfield and intensification areas, the current environmental performance of typical suburbs, the risks, and potential modifications to Canberra's urban form to mitigate, ameliorate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

To gauge issues of importance to young Canberrans, the program engaged students from ACT schools in a competition Your City, Your Vision. This consultation indicated our young people want a more vibrant, active and sustainable city with better transport, more exciting buildings and renewable energy sources.



Consultation on Draft ACT Planning Strategy

The Draft ACT Planning Strategy was open for community comment for 17 weeks from October 2011 to February 2012. During this time, a number of community and stakeholder meetings were held to reach as wide a cross-section of the community as possible.

The directions set out in the Draft Strategy received qualified community and stakeholder support. This Strategy responds to these and sets out clearer actions, time frames and measures for success. It places more emphasis on improving the quality and amenity of Canberra's urban environment.

Hundreds of comments were received from people of all ages. The Consultation Outcomes Report, February 2012 contains detailed findings.

A telephone survey of 1,050 people conducted as part of the consultation established the type of locations people considered suitable and desirable for urban intensification. The results showed these locations were, in order of preference, the town centres, avenues that are rapid transit ways and group centres. These results clearly indicate where the priorities should be for the master plan program in coming years.

Consultation with NSW Government

In addition to the ACT community, neighbouring NSW Government agencies at state and local levels were consulted. Feedback from our neighbours was very supportive and issues of shared interest were raised. These will be the basis for ongoing work and collaboration.

In December 2011, the NSW and ACT governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Collaboration (MOU). The MOU provides a basis to work together to address challenges affecting the region.

The following are the ten key messages from community consultation:

- qualified support for urban intensification
- strong support for ongoing community consultation
- call for action plans to implement the vision
- support for urban intensification at town and group centres and transit ways
- access to affordable housing and housing choice
- young people seek a cultural identity for Canberra
- support for planning strategies leading to improved health and wellbeing
- support for a city of more diverse communities and neighbourhoods
- keeping Canberra's bush capital 'feel' and landscape vistas
- a sense of urgency for change.

THE CASE FOR CHANGE

The need to manage change

Like many cities, Canberra is facing the global challenges posed by population growth, climate change, energy and food security. To ensure our long-term environmental, economic and social security, we need to make difficult decisions and take action now. This Strategy outlines how we can face these challenges.

The structure and form of our city, as well as our connection to the region, will influence how we live. Our 2060 legislated Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) target will need us to plan and take action now to adapt our city and work with our neighbours so we can all act more sustainably. Canberra must be a city that makes it easy for people to make sustainable choices in their lifestyles.

As identified through conversations with the community, research and evaluation, Canberra has a number of strengths to help it and the region address the challenges and help us manage our future.

First, Canberra's planning legacy – the metropolitan structure, transport network, open space system and infrastructure development – has provided a high quality living environment. Settlement in districts has created equality of access to facilities and services, an even spread in house prices and a strong sense of place – people identify with their district. However, our social equity, convenient access and liveability is threatened by the environmental and economic costs associated with continued expansion of our urban area, congestion from our continued reliance on the car, as well as constructing and running our homes.

Canberra's metropolitan structure is well-suited to intensification that is focused on centres and public transport routes. We can therefore have the benefits of improved access and choice in how we live while retaining most of Canberra's suburban areas. It does mean change, but we can plan ahead to ensure the amenity of areas identified for urban intensification will add to Canberra's diversity and vibrancy.

Second is our knowledge and service based economy. This has underpinned our prosperity and provided us with a 'clean' industry. However, the base is essentially the business of government; it is important to diversify our economy, thus attracting and retaining more people in our workforce. It is particularly important to attract young families to live in Canberra, where they will spend and support new business and services. To entice these families from larger cities, we must offer good employment and good, affordable living. While the landscape setting and environmental quality of our city is a drawcard, the lack of vibrancy in our urban environment, the limited range in housing and the cost of living can be discouraging.

Third, our diverse region has key importance. It offers many opportunities for education, specialist services to government, clean technology, digital enterprise and the creative sector, tourism, food and fibre production and the potential to generate renewable energy. We must work even more collaboratively with our neighbours to address urban growth, transport and communications, infrastructure and service provision, environmental protection, climate change and economic development. A consolidated approach maximises the use of resources and information, builds resilience and attracts investment.

This Strategy sets out how we can manage change – it sets out a direction to address the current challenges as well as give us the capacity to respond to new issues.

The implications of a growing population and demographic change

Population and demographic change is a critical issue across Australia. Nationally, there is a steady drift of young people and families to the larger (and generally coastal) cities seeking better employment opportunities, a vibrant culture and good access to a range of services. For regional places this migration leads to a further decline in the employment prospects and services they can provide. Attracting and retaining the younger age cohorts, particularly families that spend income on services and activities necessary to raise children, are vital to a region's prosperity.

The ACT's population is projected to grow from an estimated 365,000 in 2011 to 457,300 by 2030. The total population of the six Local Government Areas (LGAs) adjacent to the ACT is also projected to be 148,700 by 2030². This population projection of 606,000 people in our region by 2030 may be desirable for the economic resilience of Canberra and our neighbours, but it means we have to address issues around our environmental sustainability, including our use of land and water, management of waste and protection of biodiversity.

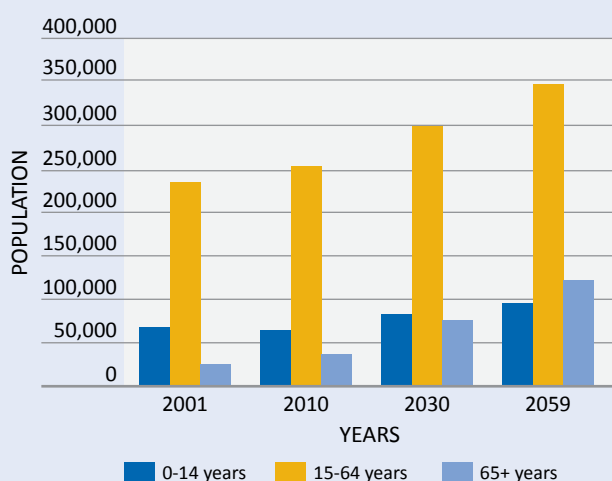
In comparison with other Australian jurisdictions, Canberra's population is relatively youthful. However, it is still an ageing population and we need to improve Canberra's affordability and vibrancy to keep young people here.

The implications of an ageing population for the planning and design of our city include:

- providing more choice in housing to meet people's changing needs and allowing people to 'age in the community'
- changing the services we need to provide, with an increase in health, community and aged care services
- ensuring our streets, paths, public parks and public transport are safe, well-maintained and cater for people of less physical mobility³.

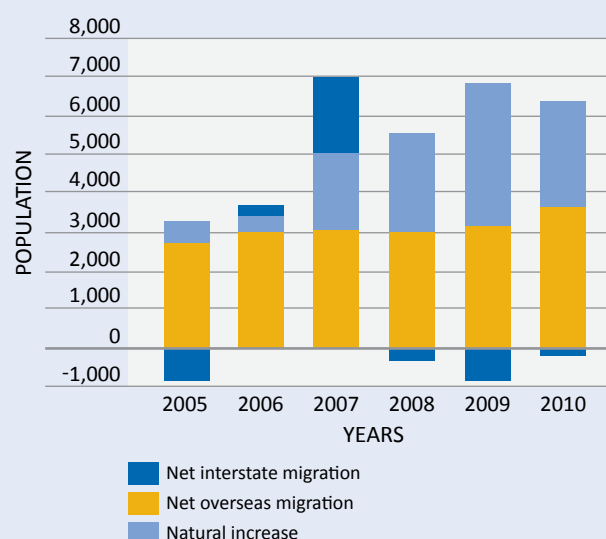
To retain our valued easy access and social equity, we have to address these design issues or we can inadvertently discourage older people from continuing to participate in the community.

Canberra's demographic projections by age 2001–2059



Data from Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate 2011
ACT Population projections for suburbs and districts

ACT population growth by component 2005–2010



Data from ABS (Catalogue no. 3101.0)
Australian Demographic Statistics

Demographic change presents a key challenge to retaining services in Canberra's districts and, indeed, our regional communities. Canberrans generally enjoy good proximity and access to services which are located in our town, group and local centres; this has been a key principle in Canberra's planning. To maintain this distribution, it is important to encourage social diversity and a spread of age groups in each district. This can minimise the demographic swings that occur and, in turn, make planning and investment in our social infrastructure more efficient and sustainable. Focusing urban intensification on our town and group centres and increasing housing choice can help us achieve and retain a wide social mix.

Understanding likely population changes is central to city planning, particularly in estimating the amount of land required for urban settlement and the planning, design and sequencing of the development of infrastructure. However, we can only make projections based on trends and the best available information at the time on future migration, fertility and mortality. In planning for 2030, we must adopt strategies that will build in resilience and the capacity to respond to varying population changes.

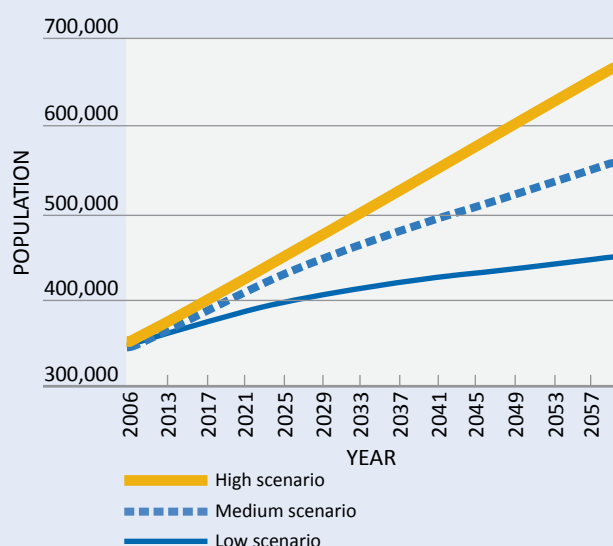
Building a more diverse and resilient economy

The world is moving into the 'conceptual age' where the contribution of knowledge, creativity, innovation and design skills are significant to economic competitiveness⁴. This is occurring as traditional values and accepted forms of economic success tied to industrial capacity are being transformed by the internet and the globalisation of resources and production. Economically competitive cities and regions will develop their points of difference and competitive advantage. For Canberra and the region it will be affordability, good lifestyle and educational opportunities as well as the locational advantages for creative, knowledge-based enterprises.

As a consequence of its role as the national capital, Canberra's economy is already strongly based around knowledge and services. In June 2011, public sector (public service) jobs represented 51% of all employment in the ACT; 77% of this in Australian and 23% in ACT government. This proportion of public sector employment means overall employment is highly influenced by governments' decisions. Growth is led by supporting activities, such as jobs in research, administration, building, retailing and services sectors⁵.

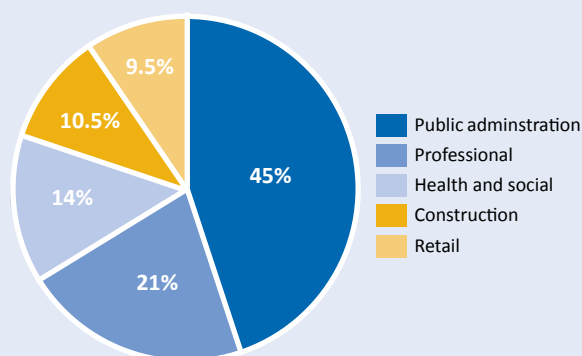
Because of this high dependence on government there has been, and is an emphasis on diversifying Canberra's economy. There are significant gains for Canberra and the region to

ACT projected population growth 2009 to 2059



Data from Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate 2011 ACT Population projections for suburbs and districts

Growth of job types 1996–2006



ACTPLA 2010 data from ABS Census 2006

expand our knowledge-based economy to encompass innovation and the development of business and industries associated with, education services, specialist services to government, digital enterprise, clean technology, the creative sector tourism and local produce.

We must work collaboratively with our regional neighbours to invest in transport networks, communication systems and urban settlement patterns that support the diversification of the economy.

For example, Canberra Airport, the rail infrastructure at Goulburn and the national highways into and out of the ACT provide a good basis for the distribution of freight to national and international markets.

Supporting Canberra Airport to operate over 24 hours will give the region a logistical advantage in the distribution of goods and produce.

A key advantage to attracting a range of enterprises is the ability to respond quickly. We need to have administrative processes and planning policies in place for land and accommodation to be available for businesses and industries.

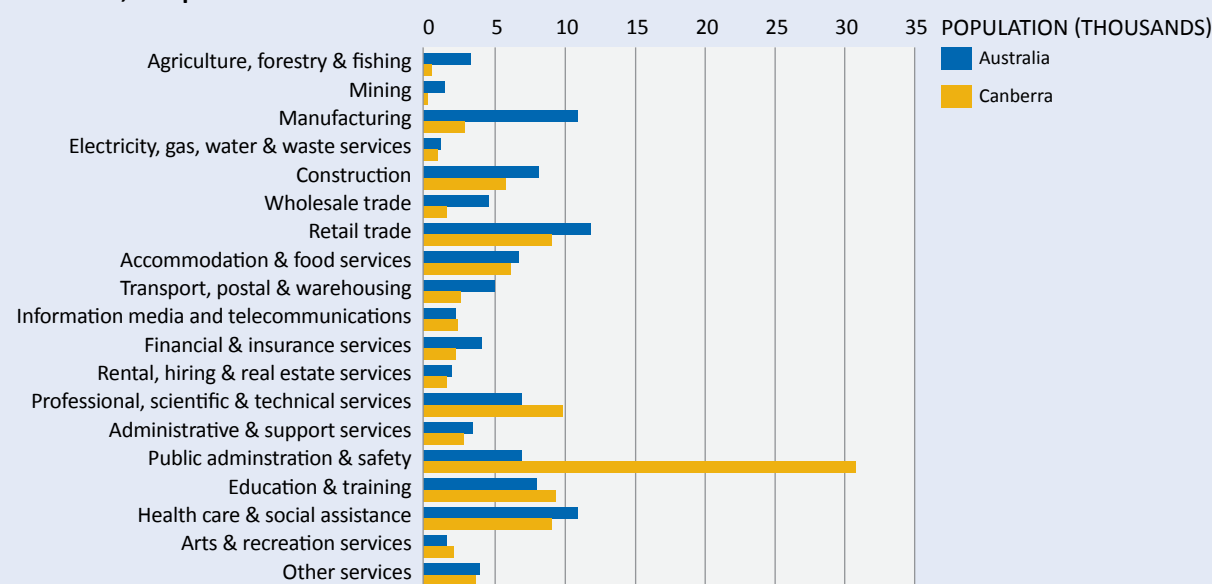
Based on current per capita provision levels and employment needed to support a growing population, the following increased areas are expected to be required by 2030⁶:

- office space – 470,000 m² gross floor area
- retail/services – 490,000 m² gross floor area
- industrial land – 300 ha.

Employment in the inner north and south of Canberra makes up over 50 % of the ACT's total employment⁷. Between 2001 and 2006 the growth of employment in central Canberra was over 40%, an increase largely due to Australian Government departments choosing accommodation close to Parliament House. Our challenge is to keep employment in the town centres and encourage additional opportunities for employment in the group centres and along the inter-town rapid transit corridors.

The dispersal of employment is important. Canberra's structure of town, group and local centres, supplemented by the bulky and construction goods retailing in industrial estates, provides major transport benefits including shorter journeys to work, reduced traffic congestion, opportunities for multi-purpose trips and lower fuel consumption.

Canberra has Australia's highest percentage of workers in public administration, information, education, and professional fields.



Data from ABS census 2006

Employment at these centres also reinforces their retail businesses and social services as employees can walk to shops, banks, libraries and health centres.

To support an estimated population of 453,000 by 2030, Canberra will need approximately 50,000 extra jobs. This requires significant marketing of Canberra and the region's liveability, and the advantages it offers business. These advantages include Canberra's role as the national capital and the access this provides to government policy makers and legislators, good educational and research facilities, the agricultural and scenic quality of the region, easy access to beaches and mountains, and attractions that include wineries, historic towns and outstanding landscapes.

Not the least of Canberra's advantage is its planned city structure and the basis it provides for a more sustainable, liveable city. The dispersal of employment and the creation of mixed use centres connected by quick and convenient transport must remain a fundamental planning objective as they provide the opportunity to live close to work, increase the number of people taking up more 'active travel' (walking and cycling) and combine work and shopping. Investment in the internet and 'tele-working' provide the opportunity to establish 'remote' offices and more flexible work practices.

In the conceptual age, a city that allows people to maximise their time and easily balance work, family, social and recreational activities will be a city that attracts people of all ages to participate in its prosperity.

Reducing our reliance on the car and making it easy for everyone to get around

Good accessibility is critical to any city and region's liveability. It ensures everyone has the capacity to participate in community life – to get to work, services and social activities. Good accessibility means people have a choice in convenient travel options.

With our very good road infrastructure and high levels of car ownership, 'ease of getting around' is considered one of Canberra's best features but it is also a challenge to maintain.

The estimated average travel distance for Canberrans to get to City, the major employment centre, is around 15km, more than twice the average distance of 6km, to their local town centre.

Distribution of employment by district 2006

Location	Employment no. of jobs	Employment % of total
North Canberra	61,460	30.0
South Canberra	46,030	22.5
Belconnen	26,590	12.5
Woden -Weston	26,660	13.0
Tuggeranong	17,400	8.5
Gungahlin	69,40	3.4
Other ACT	10,360	5.1
ACT	19,540	95.3
Queanbeyan	9,560	4.7
ACT/Queanbeyan	205,000	100

Data from ABS 2006 Census Journey to Work

Employment opportunities per resident 2006

Location	Ratio of local jobs to resident workers	% of local jobs taken by local residents
North Canberra	2.55	22.9
South Canberra	3.68	13.5
Belconnen	0.55	60.6
Woden	1.30	23.1
Weston	0.36	41.9
Tuggeranong	0.33	72.8
Gungahlin	0.39	43.2
Queanbeyan	0.56	58.1

Data from ABS 2006 Census

As over 50% of Canberrans work in central Canberra, many people are travelling a lot further than 15km, and the car is seen as the only practical option to overcome this 'tyranny of distance' at present.

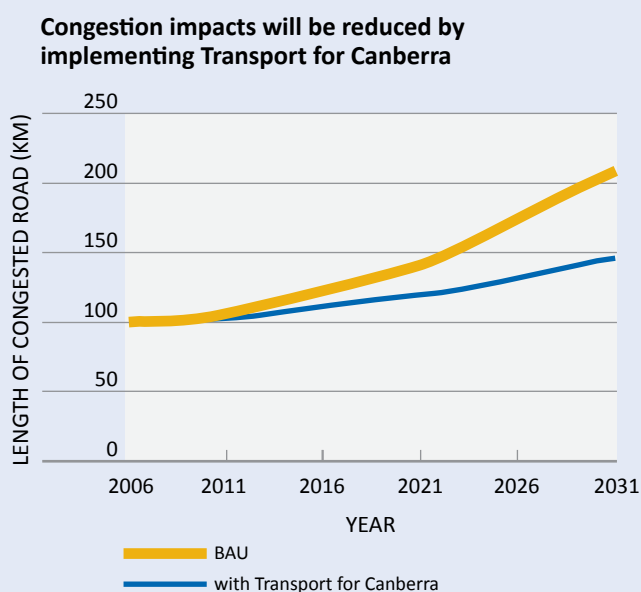
To provide more choice in convenient, sustainable travel, we have to improve people's proximity to key destinations (workplaces and social infrastructure at centres) and to frequent, rapid public transport. Achieving improved accessibility means encouraging more people to live in town and group centres or along rapid transport corridors as well as enhancing centres' viability with more employment opportunities and key services.

Canberrans are prepared to leave their car at home where there is a convenient alternative. For example, when more people moved into Turner between 2001 and 2006, the incidence of residents walking to work increased from 6% to 24%⁸. We lead the nation in cycling, with over 22% of Canberrans riding a bike in a typical week⁹.

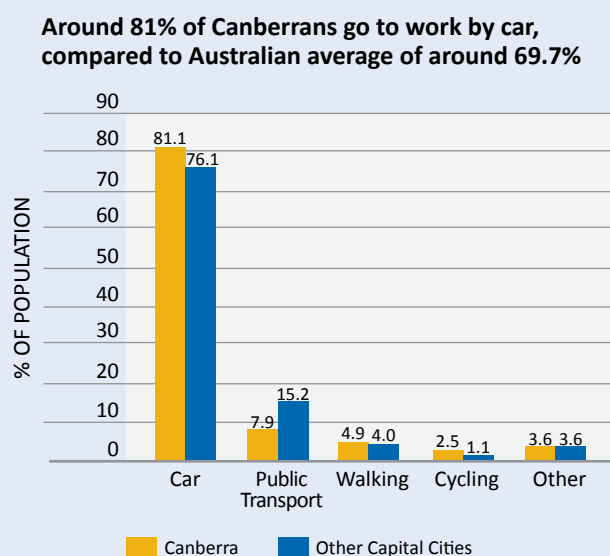
Since 40% of Canberrans already live less than 10km from their workplace, a distance easily cycled, there is potential to encourage more active travel for commuting and other trips¹⁰. Since the introduction of the rapid and frequent bus services from Gungahlin to City, more than 45% of people travelling along Flemington Road now use public transport¹¹.

Quick, convenient travel to work is desirable and necessary for an efficient, productive city. Even though cars provide exceptional personal mobility, they are not the most efficient or cost effective means for a community to meet its daily commuting needs. They move fewer people, take up more road space and use more fuel. If we continue to rely on cars for commuting, the community costs to the ACT are estimated to be more than \$2.5 billion¹². These costs include road and parking infrastructure, vehicle operating costs, accidents, administration and lost productivity from congestion.

Canberra's road hierarchy provides convenient travel for cars and public transport and the city was designed to have rapid public transport between town centres. The peripheral parkway systems were overlaid on the original structure to cater for the car. Because of this planning and layering, Canberra has the opportunity to expand the rapid public transport system and make bus travel more direct across the urban area.



Transport for Canberra
Environment & Sustainable Development Directorate 2012



Data from ABS 2006 Census Journey to Work

It is also important to address the needs of the people in the estimated 20,000 vehicles that travel into Canberra from surrounding NSW each weekday. We need to collaborate with our regional neighbours to identify public transport options and the administrative mechanisms to successfully implement these¹³.

Apart from the personal financial and economic costs, how we choose to travel comes with environmental and health costs. Currently 22% of the ACT's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are generated by fossil fuels used in transport. Our sedentary lifestyles, exacerbated by the extensive use of cars, are a key contributor to our increasing obesity levels.

While the uptake of electric and hybrid motor vehicles will help reduce GHG emissions, they are only one of the multiple sustainable transport initiatives for our future. To keep Canberra an easy, safe place for everyone to get around, we must reconsider how we plan and design our city. Cars will always have a role, but a convenient public transport system and good walking and cycling networks are real alternatives for many weekday trips.

Implementing the ACT Government's Transport for Canberra policy is pivotal to reducing our reliance on the car.

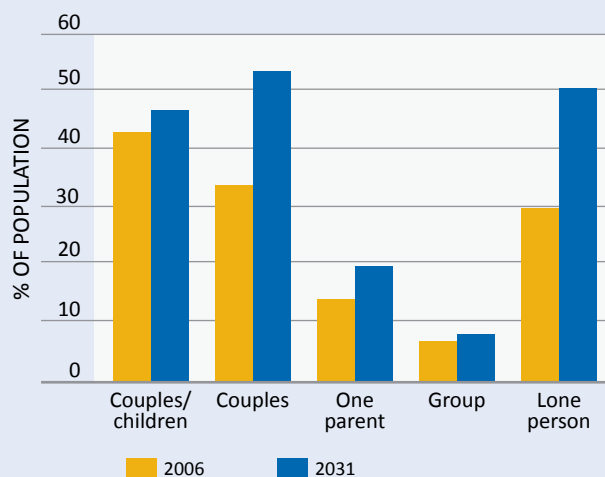
Identifying where people will live for a more sustainable city

Canberra's population is increasingly putting pressure on the urban infrastructure and social services. The increase is both natural – as children are born, grow up and start their own home – and through migration from rural areas, other cities and other countries.

Meeting this demand and making our cities more efficient, safe and liveable is a national issue and a priority for governments at every level.

The 2011 population projections for Canberra and Queanbeyan for 2030 mean we require 55,000 more dwellings, with 45,000 in the ACT (previous estimates were 61,000). In locating this additional housing we need to consider the balance we want between greenfield development (new residential estates) and urban intensification in existing metropolitan areas. Where we decide to put extra housing will affect our ability to achieve the community's preferred outcome for a more compact, sustainable Canberra.

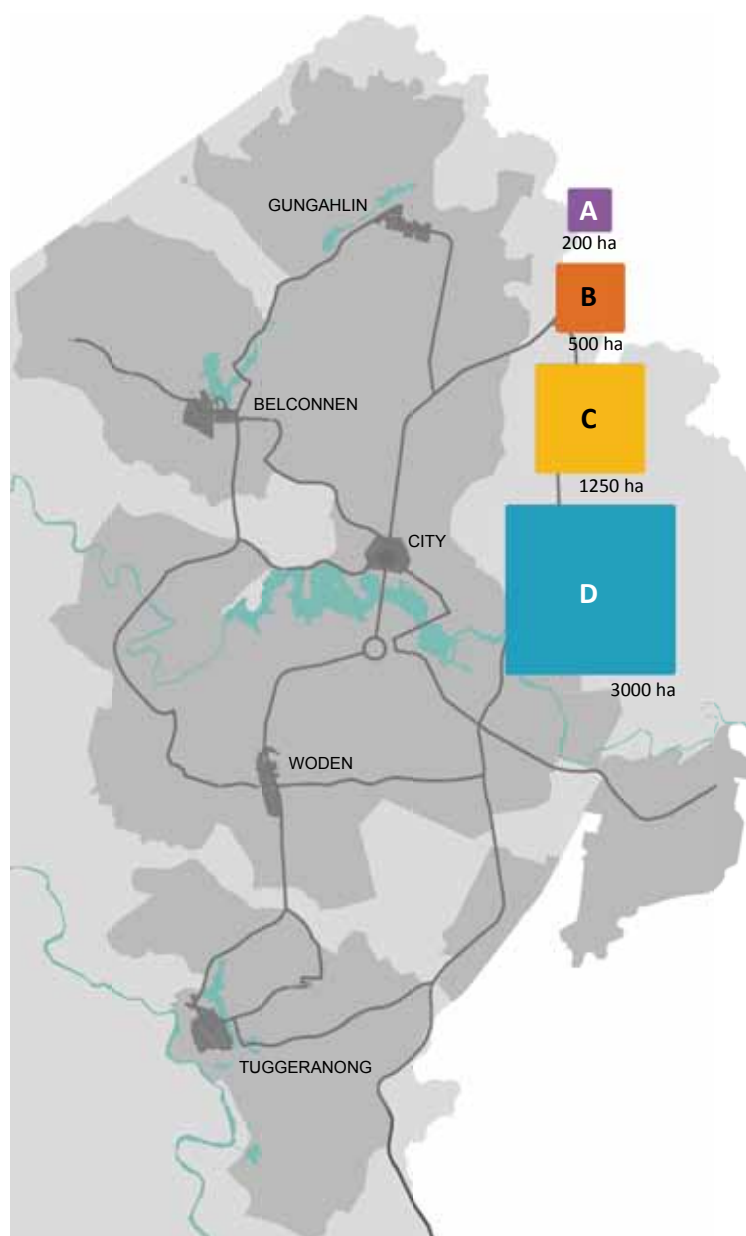
ACT households by type for 2006–2031



Data from ABS Household and family projections Australia 2006-31 (Catalogue 3236.0)

SETTING THE SCENE

The case for change



A
Land take
of high rise
apartments
200 ha
Density (approx)
330 persons per ha



B
Land take of
medium rise
apartments
500 ha
Density (approx)
132 persons per ha



C
Land take of
terraces
1250 ha
Density (approx)
52 persons per ha



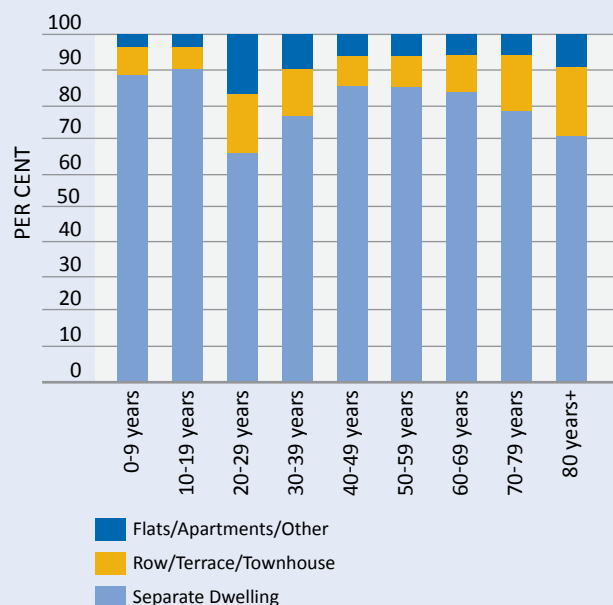
D
Land take
detached
dwellings
3000 ha
Density (approx)
22 persons per ha



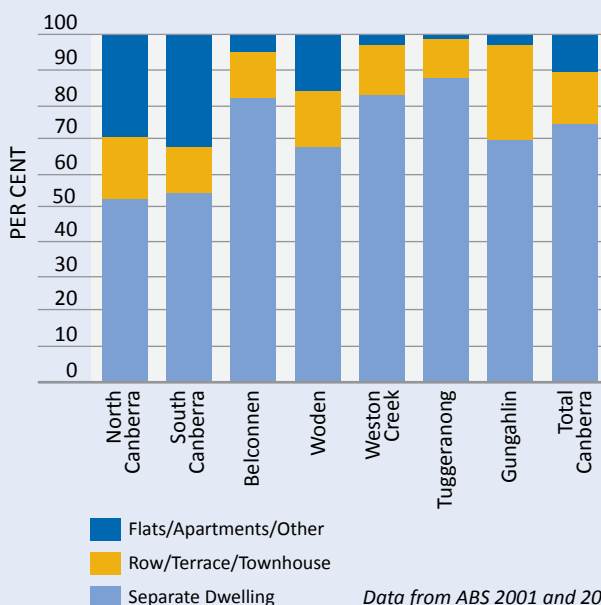
Note:

This diagram indicates the area of land taken by 50,000 dwellings at different densities. The squares on the map are to scale. Areas do not include roads, open space or other community facilities.

Dwelling type by age of resident 2006



Dwelling types by district in 2006 (since 2001 many more dwellings have been apartments or attached housing)



Data from ABS 2001 and 2006 Census

In June 2011 the remaining supply of greenfield land in Gungahlin and Molonglo Valley was estimated to be 48,000 dwellings which is the projected housing demand to 2030.

However, relying primarily on the development of greenfield land to accommodate growth is inconsistent with the community's preferred outcome from Time to Talk.

To meet the community's desire for a more compact city as well as provide for more diversity in where and how people live, there must be a mix of greenfield development and urban intensification. The balance that is struck between these will affect when the development of the more remote Kowen Plateau is required and Canberra's overall sustainability.

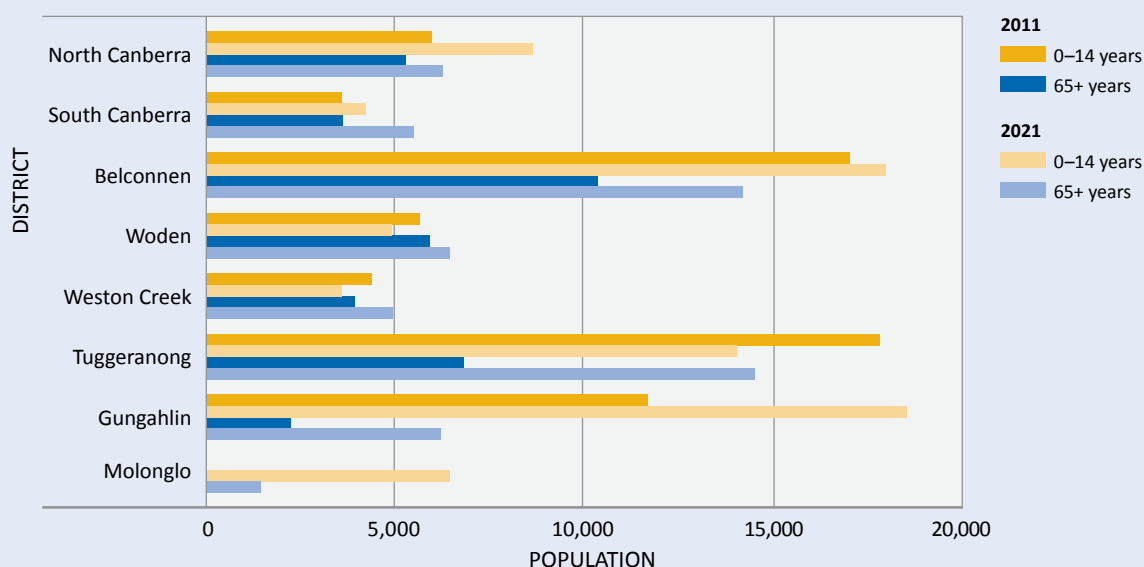
Extending Canberra's suburbs means extending and building more roads, utilities and social infrastructure. This expense could compromise our capacity to invest in improving services, such as public transport and refurbishing and making more efficient use of existing infrastructure. With a substantial proportion of our city developed in the 1960s and 1970s, including the planting of our parks and street trees, the maintenance and replacement of these assets is a significant issue.

Greenfield expansion requires more land, which presents economic and environmental costs. The ACT is reaching a point where the land that is most cost effective to develop is already subdivided or is planned to be. Most remaining 'urban capable' land presents significant financial and environmental costs because of its location, terrain and areas of endangered habitats.

Canberra's metropolitan structure and planning policies have always allowed for urban intensification. In 1993 the Territory Plan was varied to identify areas beyond Kingston/Griffith for redevelopment. Urban intensification started in inner north Canberra, close to Northbourne Avenue, because of its central location and proximity to public transport. Identifying particular areas for urban intensification is critical to retaining the majority of existing areas and limiting future urban expansion, thus conserving land and resources. It will also encourage housing diversity.

Providing housing diversity is important to meet people's changing lifestyles and needs. More housing options can attract young people who want to live in vibrant urban areas, and help meet the demands of an ageing population that wants to 'age in the community'. By 2030 it is anticipated 56,100 people aged 70 years and over will be seeking this opportunity, compared to 25,100 in 2010¹⁴.

Projected population by district for 2011 and 2021 for 65+ years and 0–14 years



Data from 2011 ABS Population and Housing Census

Authorised by the ACT Parliamentary Counsel—also accessible at www.legislation.act.gov.au

Canberra's changing household composition also supports the need to provide for more diverse housing, particularly more options in semi-detached, townhouse and apartment living. Household and family projections from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) indicate there will be substantial growth in couple and single person households in Canberra by 2031 and limited growth in the number of couple households with children. Single person and couple households are more likely to occupy higher density dwellings¹⁵.

Urban intensification can help arrest population decline and make more efficient use of existing infrastructure. For example, North Canberra's population fell from 53,100 in 1971 to 38,500 in 2001 as children grew up and established their own homes in other districts. This decline led to lower school enrolments and reduced support for local shops. Between 2001 and 2010 the population rose again to 48,000 largely due to the increase in dwellings in Turner, Watson, Braddon and City¹⁶.

We need to weigh-up all the trade-offs in determining where people will live. Greenfield development will continue, but tipping the balance to increase urban intensification can help deliver the significant social, economic and ecological benefits of a more compact city. It is critical to identify locations that will establish these benefits and add to urban amenity, while substantially retaining much of Canberra's suburban fabric.

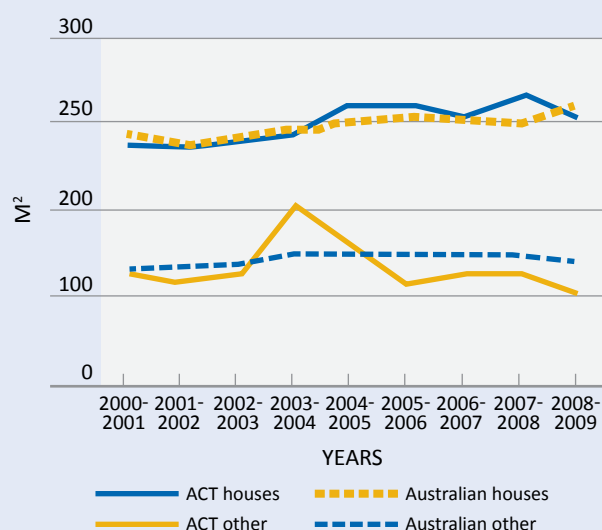
Making Canberra a more affordable place to live

Making Canberra more affordable will help retain and attract people to the city, which is critical to our economic sustainability and ability to provide the social services and civil infrastructure we need.

The biggest expenditures for most Australian households are their homes and daily travel (commuting). It is not surprising that when considering where they want to live, people factor in how they will get to work, the shops, social and recreational activities, as well as maintaining their dwellings.

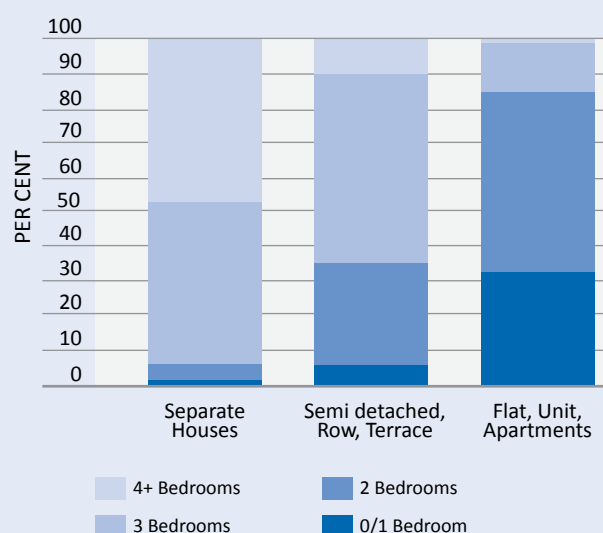
Like other cities, the median price for a home in Canberra has more than doubled over the last ten years. This growth in housing prices has reduced affordability as it has outstripped annual income growth, particularly for households in the low to medium income bands. This highlights the complexity of making housing more affordable and the more direct, significant importance

Average floor area of new dwellings



Data from ABS Building approvals Australia February 2010 (Catalogue 8731.0)

Number of bedrooms by dwelling type, Canberra 2011



Data from ABS 2011 Census

of financial and economic policies. Planning policies have an indirect influence on housing and land prices in regard to land supply, access to services and transport, and building and urban amenity.

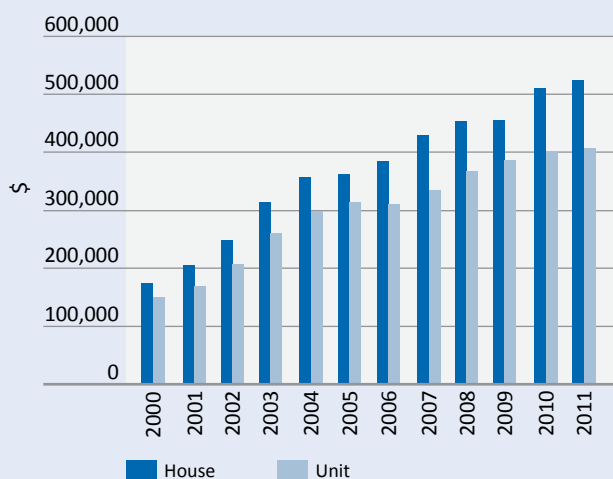
Generally, house and unit prices in the ACT and region are lower the further the dwellings are from central Canberra. This pattern is consistent with other Australian cities and reflects the premium that people are prepared to pay to reduce their costs and time in travelling to work and other city centre attractions. Many people want to trade-off commuting time for time spent on family, home and lifestyle. Improving accessibility by establishing choice in quick, convenient travel, as well as increasing residential proximity through urban intensification, can help to lower the cost of commuting.

Canberra's spatial planning, based on 'towns' with their own town centres, gives people access to services dispersed through the metropolitan area. However, urban intensification and higher densities in the town centres and along rapid public transport corridors will further help improve this access and establish a more diverse, vibrant, urban environment.

For more affordable living in Canberra, it is important to have a range of dwelling types at different price points, in a range of locations and with different tenures. This will help make it easier for people to move to a dwelling that suits their income and lifestyle needs. If this greater housing choice is associated with financial regimes to encourage 'downsizing', the increase in people buying and selling houses will help to 'recycle' the housing stock and add to ACT revenue.

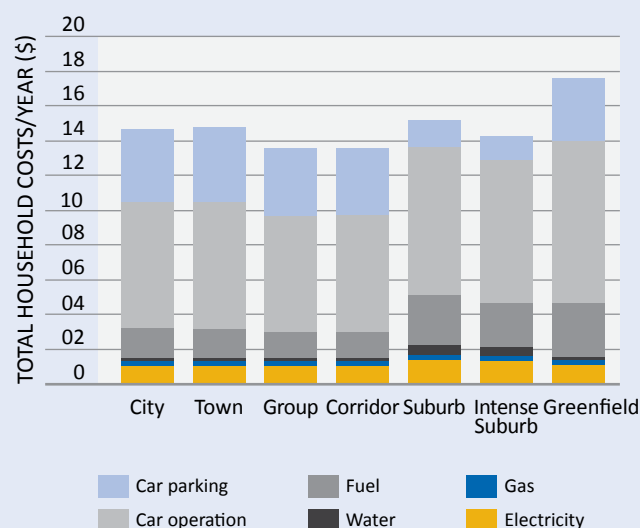
Providing more choice in housing within Canberra's established areas is important to meet the needs of an ageing population. Many people want to age in their community and will only downsize if suitable housing is available in the vicinity. Universal housing design requires homes to meet the changing needs of home occupants across their lifetime, with features to make homes easier and safer for all, including people with disability or temporary injury, families with older people and young children. Introducing universal design standards is important to enable the same house to be adapted to a wide range of social needs with minimal structural changes and therefore least cost.

ACT median house and unit prices in 2011



allhomes ACT Property Report 2011

2006 ACT annual household expenditure by housing type



Data from ABS 2006

Urban intensification contributes to increasing land values and an increase in rental properties. In 2006, 12,700 Canberra dwellings were rented, increasing over ten years by 1,400 dwellings. The challenge is to ensure that diversity in the rental market is provided with urban intensification. Planning requirements can encourage a range of dwelling sizes and tenures to help retain affordable rental accommodation.

How efficient our homes are to maintain and live in (the running costs of energy, gas and water consumption) also has a bearing on affordable living. Research indicates that per person, Australians use less energy and emit less GHG if living in townhouses, with detached housing not far behind. Aside from the source and cost of energy, per dwelling type townhouses (two storeys) and villas are most efficient in running costs, followed by three to eight storey apartments, detached houses and, lastly, apartment buildings over ten storeys.

With falling household occupancy rates, townhouses and villas could provide a more affordable option to Canberra's large, detached houses¹⁷.

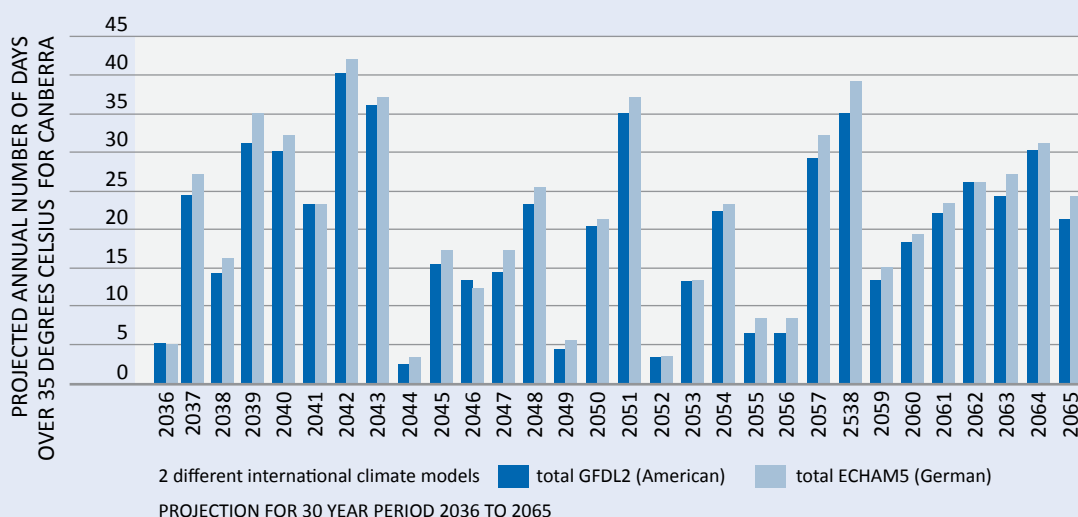
The potential implications of climate change

The United Nations 2011 Copenhagen Accord on Climate Change reinforces that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The Accord emphasises a 'strong political will to urgently combat climate change' is needed. It also recognises that to prevent dangerous interference to climate systems caused by human activity, the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius.

The ACT Government accepts that climate change is real and is taking a holistic approach to both adaptation and mitigation. In order to drive systemic change, the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* came into effect in November 2010. This establishes ACT emissions reduction targets of zero net GHG emissions by 2060; 40% below 1990 levels by 2020; and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Canberra's metropolitan structure has some key advantages in regard to the city's ability to adapt and mitigate climate change but we have to change our urban form – the buildings we work and live in and the city's physical infrastructure – to support more sustainable behaviours. The consultation undertaken on Weathering the Change - Action Plan 2 will assist in deciding how the community collectively achieves these ambitious targets.

Climate modelling of predicted heat waves



Modelling from a variety of different sources by the ACT and NSW governments concur our climate future is likely to be characterised by:

- warmer average temperatures¹⁸ leading to more severe drought and extreme bushfire weather¹⁹
- less overall rainfall with a change in the seasonal distribution and more frequent intense storms.

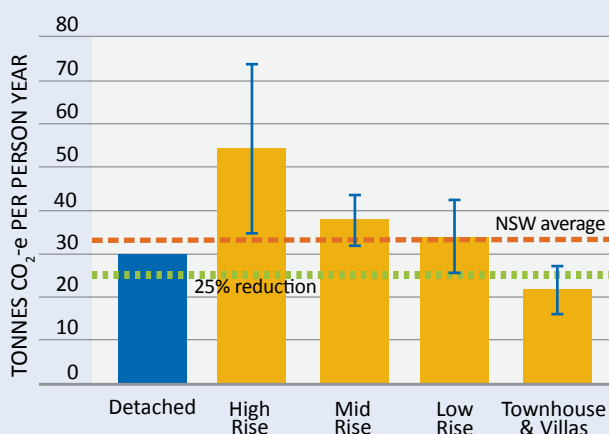
These climate change effects have significant ramifications for people’s health, agricultural production and the ongoing viability of our ecosystems. They have the potential to damage our buildings and infrastructure.

In changing how we plan and develop Canberra, we can take several precautionary actions:

- ensure greater proximity to work and services to support more choice in sustainable transport options for commuters and active travel
- modify the design standards of houses and estates to reduce energy and water consumption
- improve the performance of utilities – power, water and stormwater – by investing in sustainable technologies, systems and practices
- ensure ecosystem connectivity throughout the ACT and into the region, including through urban areas
- build community resilience and capacity to cope with change and disastrous events by distributing social services across districts and supporting local and district initiatives for energy generation
- moderate the micro-climate of the urban area by managing and reinforcing Canberra’s treed landscape to provide shade and shelter from strong winds and reduce dust.

The challenge is to address the needs of the most vulnerable people in the community, thereby meeting everyone’s needs. It is widely accepted that those who already experience social stress will be more adversely affected by the impacts of climate change. This includes the very young, the very old, people with chronic medical conditions and people on low incomes or with poor literacy²⁰.

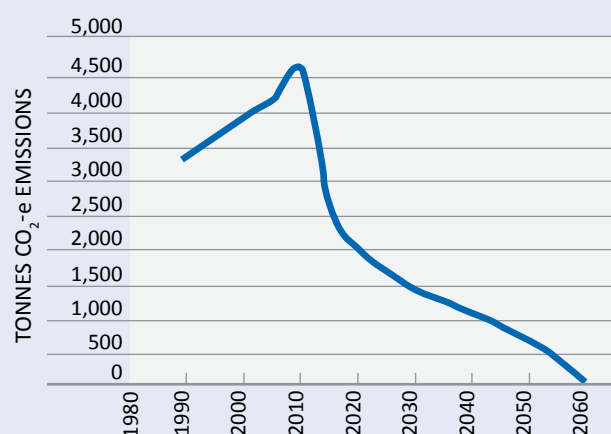
Increasing medium density types of housing can reduce greenhouse gases



“... the generally lower occupancy rates (1.92 persons per dwelling) of high-rise, mid-rise and low-rise apartments leads to per capita greenhouse emissions that exceed those of detached dwellings (3.05 persons per dwelling).”

Multi-unit residential building energy and peak demand study for NSW Department of Planning 2005

ACT greenhouse gas emissions target trajectory



Draft Weathering the Change–Action Plan 2 ESDD 2012

When more vulnerable people are together, such as in old age residential complexes and hospitals, we must mitigate against all risks, including those that may be exacerbated by climate change. Current data gaps make it difficult to assess the full spatial variability of vulnerable populations in the ACT. However, because of Canberra's planned structure, there are minimal concentrations of the socially vulnerable.

In regard to other health and financial impacts from climate change, the ACT is generally consistent with other jurisdictions in showing that already vulnerable populations will be disproportionately impacted.

While it will be necessary to improve our understanding of vulnerability to climate change in the broader Canberra community, research to date and the consultation feedback show that to reduce vulnerability we need to:

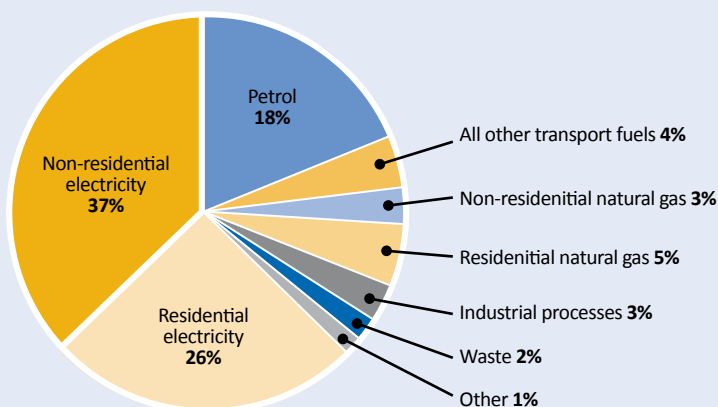
- improve public transport services
- ensure centres provide a range of housing and services.

These actions will also help accommodate the growing and ageing population.

Canberra's metropolitan structure provides an excellent basis on which to improve our resilience to climate change. However, to maximise this we need to address how the city is rebuilt over time. Most infrastructure was designed before issues of resilience and resource efficiency became commonplace. As it reaches the end of its serviceable life, it must be replaced with new infrastructure engineered to withstand more extreme environmental conditions while also delivering efficiency dividends. Urban intensification can be a catalyst to this infrastructure renewal.

Most actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts have 'no regrets'. For example, investing in better walking infrastructure will have desirable social, health and economic benefits, as well as helping reduce GHG emissions.

ACT emissions disaggregated by sector



ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2009

Reducing consumption of land and natural resources and protecting biodiversity

Our resource consumption is being driven by population growth and increasing affluence.

While Canberrans are generally quite environmentally aware, collectively our actions tell a different story. Our consumption of resources continues to grow. The average ACT resident's ecological footprint in 2008–09 was 9.2 global ha. It increased by 8% in five years and nearly 25% in ten years. Our ecological footprint was 13% above the Australian average, and nearly 3.5 times the global average. Canberrans used 14 times the land area of the ACT to support our lifestyle; if everyone in the world lived in the same way as the average Canberran, we would need five Earths to give us enough land and surface water to provide our resources and absorb our wastes ²¹.

Electricity supply is by far the greatest contributor to the ecological footprint ²². Energy consumption in Canberra is rising, and the greatest portion is in relation to heating and cooling houses. To meet the legislated targets after the introduction of a carbon price, the Canberra community needs to cut emissions by a total of 2,212 kilo tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂-e) by 2020. This has significant implications for the planning, design and construction of domestic houses.

The ACT Government research paper Urban Form Analysis compared the resource consumption of parts of four Canberra suburbs with three international best practice examples. The best performing of the four Canberra suburbs on land take per person was 89 m² more than in Hannover Kronsberg and 131 m² more than Freiburg, Vauban in Germany ²³.

To determine the 'adaptive' potential of Canberra's urban form, further research considered a town, group and local centre and outer suburb; modelling the changes in energy and water consumption if these areas were subject to urban intensification. By changing the urban design and built form, targeted infill in centres can reduce the existing high levels of consumption ²⁴. This work echoes other research, which suggests the most resource efficient houses are medium sized, low rise townhouses, particularly when located near good public transport connections ²⁵.

Emissions and other consequences of increasing car travel are also of concern. Transport fuel is the second highest contributor to GHG emissions ²⁶.

Urban Form Analysis — land take diagrams

KINGSTON is located in the inner south of Canberra. The area was established in the 1920s, with newer development extending to the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin at the turn of this century.



Land Use Comparison



Land Use Map

Land is a finite resource and it supports a myriad of competing uses. The impetus to change how we approach land use and development must be a priority. Revitalisation through infill will lower land take per capita, and will help reduce the resource use of the population through the building of more sustainable dwellings. However, we also need to address the most appropriate use of the land and see how we can incorporate new and multiple uses into our urban areas in order to use land more efficiently.

The world is rapidly becoming more urbanised and the issue of feeding the population is at crisis point. It would seem critical that we protect the region's most productive agricultural land from urban development.

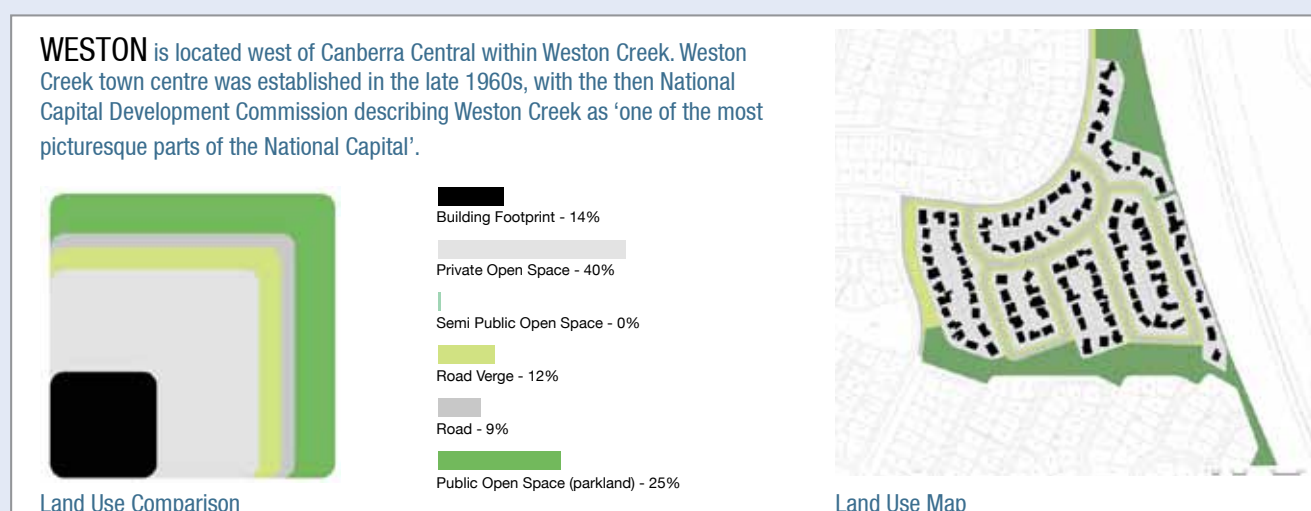
Our continued urban expansion is threatening the city's valued rural and bush setting and the connectivity of its ecosystems. As of March 2008, 17 species were listed as endangered and 14 species considered vulnerable under the ACT's *Nature Conservation Act, 1980*. Plants and animals are not contained by administrative borders and it is imperative to take a regional approach to managing biodiversity.

Under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC 1999), we are required to limit and mitigate adverse impacts on rare and endangered ecosystems. Supporting this, the Australian Government is also encouraging the preparation of regional biodiversity plans.

In 2010, ANU Professor Will Steffen said 'The most effective adaptation approach is to increase resilience of ecosystems and to make space for species and ecosystems to self adjust as climate shifts. Management strategies include removing or minimising existing stressors and managing for appropriate connectivity'²⁷.

Many studies recommend promoting connectivity between habitats. Just as people need to move from place to place, so do other species. Habitat connectivity means preserving or creating space for the movement of plants and animals²⁸. For example, the threshold size for habitat connection locally is a maximum 1.1km between minimum 10ha size habitats. Maintenance and creation of habitats with linking pathways can help provide living spaces for self adjustment for a range of different fauna. Detailed consideration of this is needed in the design and management of urban areas.

Urban Form Analysis — land take diagrams



Reducing resource consumption, protecting biodiversity and addressing the emerging issue of food security and sovereignty are best tackled at a regional level. We need to work collaboratively to ensure we use our land and resources sustainably and expand our opportunities to meet our needs.

Developing a healthy community and city

At the individual and social level, good health is essential for happiness and prosperity. A healthy city is one that meets our physical, emotional and social needs. It is a city where everyone, regardless of their age or ability, can easily participate in all aspects of daily life, enjoy a sense of wellbeing and benefit from a clean, safe environment.

There are many aspects to making a city healthy and an attractive place to live. It includes a choice and variety of lifestyle opportunities, how easy it is to get around, good access to information and services, the quality of the buildings and amenity of the public spaces. This is underpinned by how the city meets the needs of the more vulnerable groups in our community such as children, the elderly, low income households, people with disabilities and cultural minorities.

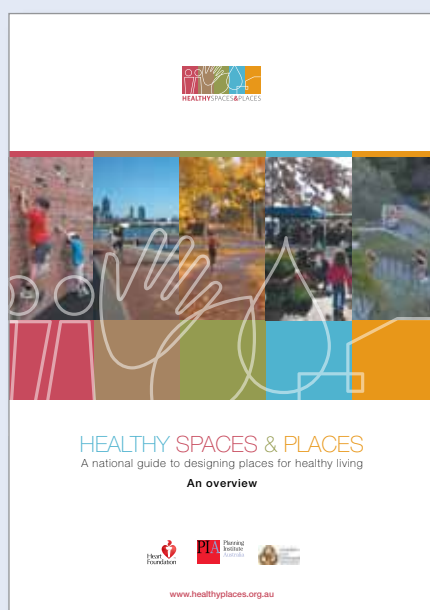
A city can promote individual health and contribute to preventative health measures by identifying ways to make it easy for people to be more physically active in their daily routines; for example, making it easier for more people to choose to walk or cycle to work or school.

Increasing physical activity will have a significant fiscal benefit in the future through reducing the cost to the community in treating preventable diseases²⁹. Public health expenditure is projected to take the biggest share of future budgets, particularly as the population ages. In planning and developing our city we should make active travel choices the default choice for as many citizens as possible.

To encourage children and the elderly to be more active, our neighbourhoods, streets and parks must be designed to be child- and age-friendly. This means providing routes to multiple destinations such as schools and shops that will allow people to take a five to ten minute walk on safe paths that have easy gradients and avoid busy roads. It means fostering a culture in the community of familiar faces that look out for the welfare of each other.

“There is great potential to achieve health gains by integrating walking into everyday life. In Australia, approximately 10% of all car trips are less than one kilometre, the equivalent of a ten minute walk, and 30% are less than three kilometres.”

Healthy Spaces and Places
2009



There are other flow on effects from greater activity beyond the health benefits for individuals. A recent South Australian Heart Foundation study concluded that ‘space allocated to bicycle parking can produce much higher levels of retail spend than the same space devoted to car parking’ and that ‘retail vitality would be best served by traffic restraint, public transport improvements and a range of measures to improve the walking and cycling environment’³⁰.

Urban intensification and improving Canberra’s cycling and walking networks will clearly help establish an economically and environmentally healthier city.

Canberra is already aware of the importance of looking after the more vulnerable in our community. The ACT Strategic Plan for Positive Ageing 2010–2014: Towards an Age-Friendly City, 2009 encourages active ageing and has a vision for Canberra as an age-friendly city addressing the World Health Organisation’s guidelines for an age-friendly city³¹. Similarly, the ACT Government’s ACT Children’s Plan 2010–2014: Vision and Building Blocks for a Child Friendly City addresses the principles of UNICEF’s Child Friendly Cities.

People are social creatures, and regular social interaction is essential in a healthy and balanced life. Social isolation affects physical health. A recent analysis of 148 studies on social isolation and mortality statistics showed ‘a 50% increased likelihood of survival for participants with stronger social relationships.’ This study concluded that social isolation is equivalent to other known health risks such as smoking. A lack of social support among young people has been found to increase their risk for suicide³². An indicator of social inclusion is face-to-face contact with family and friends who live outside their household. When last measured, Canberra’s rate of 81.6% of the population reporting regular social contact outside the house was above the national average of 79.3%³³.

Few cities have Canberra’s planned system of parks and open spaces integrated with a hierarchy of local and group centres and providing a range of recreational and social opportunities. The challenge is to ensure public assets are valued and ongoing investment in their quality. Because centres are particularly important to provide services to their local community, it is vital to implement measures to keep them viable with a diverse social mix and supportive business environment.

“Walking is such a basic way of travelling that it is easy to forget its importance.”
Methorst *et. al*, 2010

Physical Activity Strategic Framework 2012–2015



Another challenge is to soften the impact on the health of citizens from natural hazards and extreme events, which are likely to be more frequent with climate change. An increased risk of bushfires, days of extreme heat and severe storm events will affect the more vulnerable groups in our community as they have the least capacity to adapt. Just as it is important to create accessible and inviting public spaces, the more measures that mitigate or ameliorate climate risks, the more secure and pleasant our city will be for all its citizens³⁴.

Canberra generally enjoys clean air and water and does not suffer from significant negative microclimates such as 'heat islands'. This is attributable to our metropolitan structure, our system of open spaces and lack of heavy industry. However, Canberra's continued environmental health, and that of the region, will depend on how well we plan and manage for change in new and established urban areas.

Improving quality and amenity in the architecture and urban environment

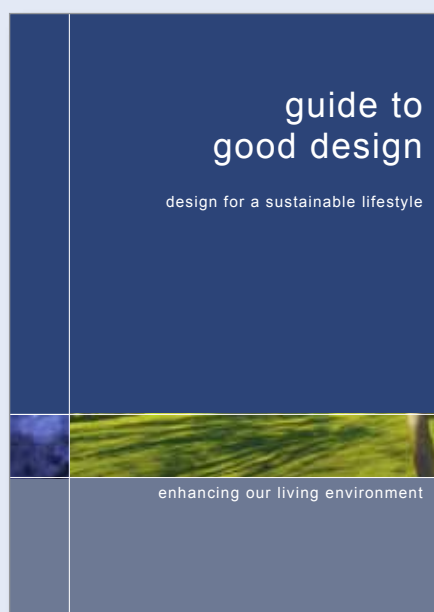
During Time to Talk and consultation on the Draft Planning Strategy, Canberrans indicated they were prepared to support urban intensification but only if it was well-designed and executed. This echoes findings from international research that most people believe that good design improves the everyday spaces of their lives³⁵.

Canberra is a designed city. Walter Burley Griffin won an international design competition with his entry that used the landscape to structure his plan for the city. The National Capital Development Commission similarly recognised the value of the landscape, with the metropolitan structure plan separating the city's districts with open space. This concept of separating and distinguishing localities fitted with the principle of establishing a strong sense of belonging to a community; a principle that was particularly important for our new national capital, whose residents had left their home cities and extended families.

Canberrans cherish the character and amenity this respect for the landscape and environment has created for their city. While Canberrans understand the need for the city to be more efficient and sustainable, they also want assurance that change will add to the city's quality. This means addressing every aspect of design, from the architecture of our buildings and the landscape design of our parks through to the urban design of our neighbourhoods and centres.

The architectural quality and character of building is difficult to mandate through the planning system. Policies and codes are intended to control key relationships and interfaces between

"... using sustainable design principles ... will result in a building that is more comfortable, has less impact on the environment, is more economical to run and is healthier to live in."
guide to good design
2004



buildings so that there is equity in our urban environment – everyone can enjoy a level of privacy and sunshine and plan for activities and future investments with a level of certainty.

To establish this equity, planning systems and policies identify rules and criteria to achieve consistency in buildings, thus influencing the architecture; for example, building scale and setbacks, limits to building heights and mix of apartment types. The construction of our buildings, including their quality and sustainable performance, is regulated and controlled by the national Building Code of Australia.

The perceived quality and attractiveness of any individual building is subjective. Improving the architectural design of buildings needs a culture that promotes, recognises and rewards responsible design. This would encourage innovation and designs that reflect people's changing values.

At the broader scale, good urban design sets out the concepts and strategies that guide how we use the land, the composition of the built form, the movement networks and the pattern and character of the public spaces. Good urban design responds to both the particular site conditions and the community by encouraging highly collaborative and responsive place-making and design processes.

This is important if aspects of quality and amenity, which communities care most passionately about, are to be identified and respected.

Good urban design and improvement to the built environment require:

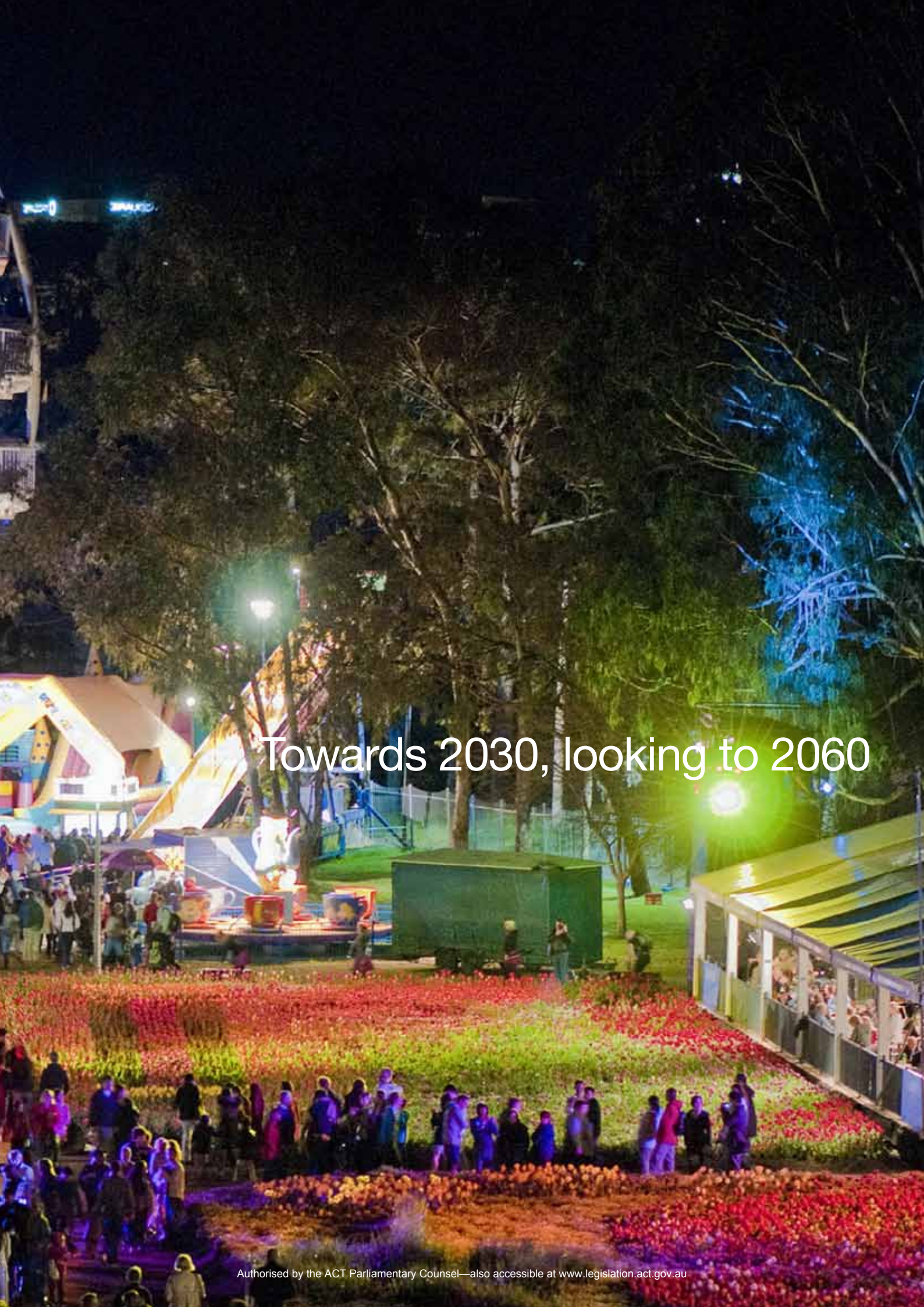
- strategic planning where the economic, environmental and social outcomes are set out with the actions to achieve them
- excellence in design that is achieved through leadership, collaboration and the integration of all the processes in planning, developing and managing the built environment
- engagement of the stakeholders to provide input and feedback
- stewardship of the public realm and assets to ensure they are valued and maintained in the long-term.

The design of our buildings and public spaces affect almost every aspect of our daily lives. Creating places where more people want to live and socialise helps local businesses, makes infrastructure spending more economically viable and makes the social, everyday lives of its citizens more interesting and engaging.

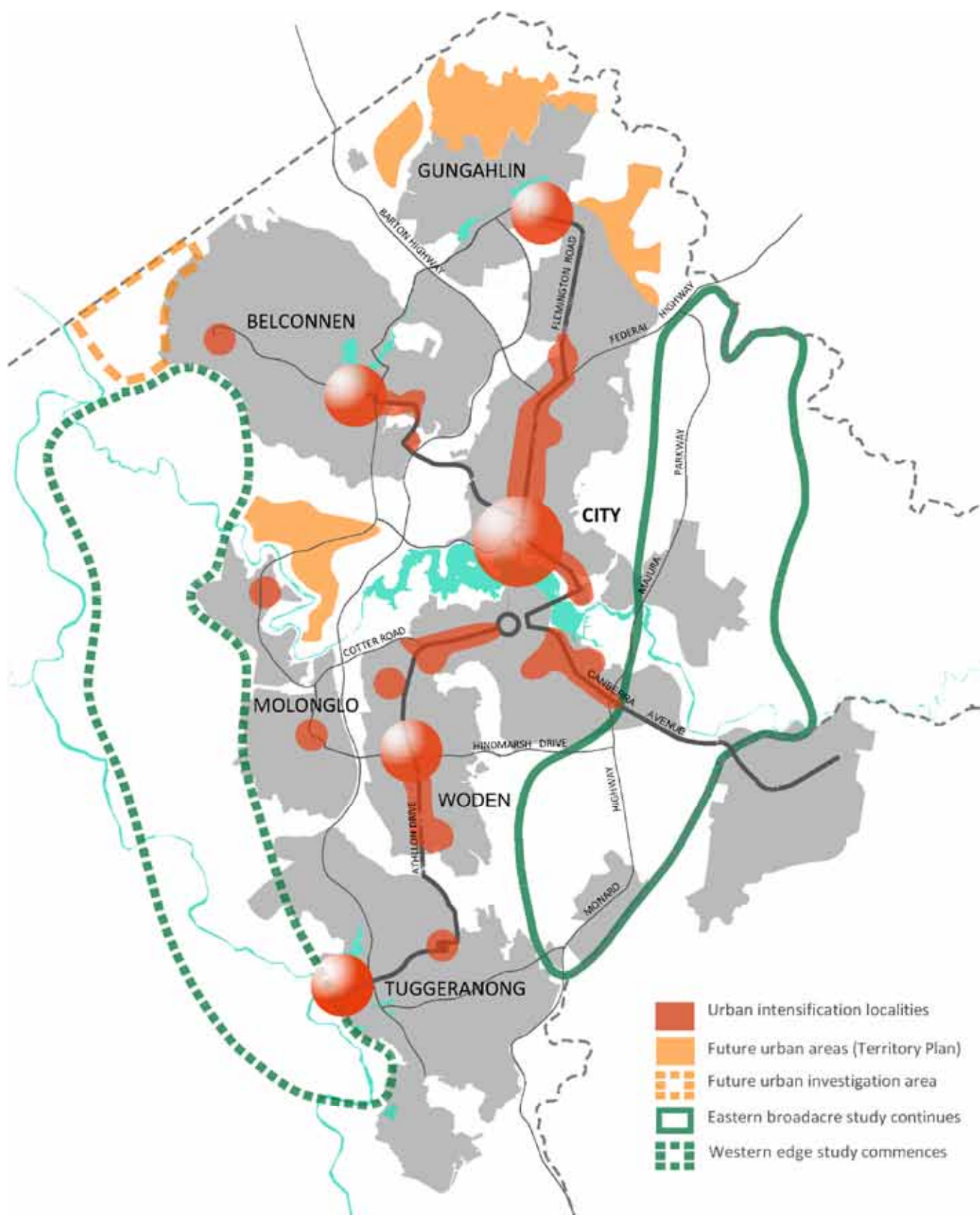


View from Summit of Mount Ainslie, Canberra. Marion Mahony's watercolour which was part of the winning design by Walter Burley Griffin for the 1912 Federal Capital design competition.





Towards 2030, looking to 2060



Managing growth in the ACT

The layout and extent of these future areas are subject to detail review and the outcomes of statutory approval processes.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

The following nine strategies set out the course for change to achieve the desired future outcomes. These strategies, and the actions prescribed under each, build on Canberra's key strengths – its liveability, accessibility and knowledge-based economy. They also identify where we can work with our neighbours to establish a more prosperous, sustainable region.

Just as the challenges we need to address are interrelated, so too are the strategies and actions, with each contributing to the delivery of the five outcomes.

The time frame for action and the successful delivery of change is significant. This strategy has identified short and long-term actions. Short-term actions (one to five years) are urgent because they are critical to achieving current policy or to initiating more substantial, long lasting change. Longer term actions (beyond five years) are important and a priority because they build on the impetus of change.

Defining the scope of master plans

Master plans set out objectives and strategies to manage development and change in a particular area over time. They work within the context of what is important about a place and how to enhance its character and quality.

Community involvement in defining the scope and area for individual master plans is important.

The following parameters are often used to define the area of a master plan:

- creating a precinct that provides an easy 10 to 15 minute walk along the streets and paths to a centre or rapid transit corridor
- the natural and recognisable boundaries set by the landscape character and topographical features
- cultural and natural heritage
- the gazetted suburb and district boundaries
- land use policy areas.

For further information on the scope of master plans see Appendix 3.

1 Create a more compact, efficient city by focusing urban intensification in town centres, around group centres and along the major public transport routes, and balancing where greenfield expansion occurs.

This strategy focuses on delivering Outcomes A and B, with Canberra in 2030 being a city

...that makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.

...where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic and cultural life.

Canberra is a planned city; its growth and development have reflected best practice planning principles of their time. The legacy of these is an established spatial structure that respects the landscape and has created a series of identifiable towns and town centres connected by direct inter-town arterial roads and parkways.

This strategy recognises the value of the metropolitan structure and seeks to build on this foundation.

It also reinforces the focus of the 2004 Canberra Spatial Plan to establish a more compact, sustainable city that uses its resources and infrastructure more efficiently. This strategy differs from the Spatial Plan in that it identifies key areas for development and urban intensification that can deliver the social, economic and ecological benefits of a more compact city while retaining much of the suburban fabric. The Spatial Plan sought to concentrate intensification around City, this Strategy includes all the town and group centres, as well as the inter-town rapid transit corridors.

Implementing this strategy means

Each of our town centres will provide an opportunity for people to live in a more urban environment adding to the diversity and choice of where and how people want to live. City will remain the ‘first among equals’ of the town centres as the place for the ACT’s prime administrative and cultural institutions.

Urban intensification along Canberra’s rapid public transit ways can be implemented progressively and managed to minimise conflicts that occur between the established areas and redevelopment.

Employment will be distributed in all the town centres, so we reduce congestion and the personal costs of commuting. Being close to Parliament House, City and the national area will continue to be the prime employment location. However, improving the urban quality of town centres and providing more convenient inter-town public transport will help consolidate the Australian Government’s existing investment in Belconnen, Woden and Tuggeranong. This focus is evident in the development of the Tuggeranong Town Centre master plan.

Opportunities for new enterprises and medium and small businesses to locate in more affordable commercial accommodation will be provided as part of mixed use developments along the rapid public transit corridors and in group centres. This will further help distribute employment opportunities to allow people more choice to live close to work with convenient, direct transport connections.

Greenfield development in Gungahlin and Molonglo Valley will continue to be developed. Their development will enable us to improve the overall sustainability of Canberra through the deployment of new infrastructure, housing and work places that incorporate the latest, ‘clean’ technologies.

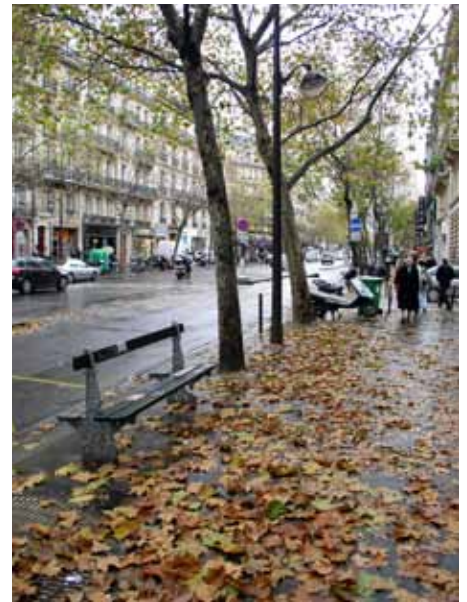
Continuing to prepare master plans, planning frameworks and concept plans to set out more detailed actions to implement change are critical to the implementation of this strategy. Gaining the input of many Canberrans will be a priority in preparing these plans so we capture the values and initiatives that will deliver change.

Short-term actions

- Prepare a plan for City that articulates the vision, aspirations and the desired urban amenity for Canberra's pre-eminent centre. This is pivotal to guiding both public and private investment in City, including public buildings. Through engagement of the community and in collaboration with stakeholders, the plan must set out the principles and directions to inform transport planning, land release and the management of the public realm in order to enhance the vibrancy of City.
- Review the Woden Master Plan and prepare a master plan for Mawson group centre, inclusive of the Athllon Drive corridor, to initiate development that will support strategies for rapid public transport and active travel. Preparing these plans together will ensure the integration of proposals and initiatives that address transport, residential density, the renewal of infrastructure and the incorporation of community facilities.
- Review the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan and extend this review to capture the synergies for transport, land use, open space and infrastructure planning with development on the University of Canberra campus and adjacent Lake Ginninderra.
- Develop more detailed plans and policies to facilitate urban intensification along Northbourne Avenue from City to Mitchell. This is a key rapid public transport corridor which could be an important exemplar and catalyst for changing the delivery of rapid public transport in Canberra. It is crucial land use policies realise the 'value capture' that can be derived from urban intensification associated with quick, convenient travel.
- Continue the development of Kingston Foreshore and prioritise development of East Lake to establish an exemplary sustainable development.
- Continue the development of Molonglo Valley and Gungahlin greenfield areas, supported by the government's land release program and key infrastructure works, including the construction of the East-West Arterial Road from the Molonglo Valley group centre to Tuggeranong Parkway, the John Gorton Drive Bridge over the Molonglo River and the water quality control pond and a trunk sewer to serve Molonglo Valley.
- Following investigations prepare structure/concept plans for greenfield areas on the urban edge that appropriately add to the efficient use of existing infrastructure of Canberra.

Longer term actions

- Investigate the environmental significance and assess the suitability of areas for greenfield development that will better utilise existing infrastructure.
- Extend the program of master plans for centres and transit ways after the completion of the current program and following this Strategy's five year review.
- Continue the development of Molonglo Valley/Gungahlin greenfield areas.



2 Improve everyone's mobility and choice of convenient travel by integrating the design and investment of the various networks and transport systems with the land uses they serve.

While important to creating more sustainable, affordable living, this strategy gives greater emphasis to Outcome B, with Canberra in 2030 being a city

...where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic and cultural life.

Canberrans understand that a more sustainable and equitable city means reducing our reliance on the private motor vehicle for commuting and providing more practical choices for daily travel needs. To achieve this we must integrate land use and transport planning.

This strategy supports the National Charter for Integrated Land Use and Transport Planning, which emphasises that to improve accessibility, there must be good proximity, delivered through the pattern of land uses, and good mobility, delivered through the choice of transport modes.

The Transport for Canberra policy has progressed the 2004 Sustainable Transport Plan by determining to provide rapid, frequent public transport on the direct inter-town transit routes between the town centres and to reinforce the parkway system for trips that bypass City. This separation allows urban intensification to be more successfully planned along Canberra's avenues, where public transport provides more convenient commuting.

Implementing this strategy means

It is possible to establish more cost effective, sustainable travel for individuals and the community. Increasing public transport patronage means we can invest in more extensive services and more efficient transport systems. Less reliance on the car means less congestion on the roads; less congestion means improved health, environmental and economic returns to the community.

Walking and cycling will be easier following the implementation of walking plans, resulting in a healthier and more active community. Children can cycle or walk to school and more people can get out and enjoy a stroll in the neighbourhood.

Canberra's transport networks will intersect, allowing people to plan their travel using a variety of modes. Creating points where people can 'cross-over' and change transport modes will encourage the use of public transport on longer trips. Park and Ride and Bike and Ride facilities can be located and developed near or at centres to improve the amenity and convenience for commuters.

Car parking requirements and management strategies must respond to the changing need for parking and must support commercial and social exchange.

Parking in our town and group centres must be aimed at supporting businesses and be limited to shorter stays of up to three hours. In suburban residential areas, developments must provide sufficient parking to keep the amenity of residential areas. However, less parking will be needed in developments in town and group centres and along rapid inter-town transit ways where there is good access to public transport.

Investment in road infrastructure must match the patterns and changes in people's travel behaviour. In some cases this may mean an investment that changes the street to reinforce slower traffic speeds and improve the verge for walking and cycling. For Canberra's peripheral parkway system it will mean investment that provides fast access for vehicles, taking traffic out of the urban areas.

The actions in this strategy are integral to the implementation of the 2011 Transport for Canberra policy.

Short-term actions

- Use the master plan process to provide the analysis and direction to:
 - revise the car parking requirements in the Territory Plan codes to reflect the needs of different places and the changing demand for car parking. This will progressively implement the Transport for Canberra Strategic Parking Framework.
 - develop walking plans to ensure the network covers the residential areas and links them to centres, public spaces and public transport routes.
- Revise statutory documents to enforce the transport and road hierarchy set out in Transport for Canberra, 2012.
- Commence land use investigations, in association with transport planning, to address the benefits of extending the rapid public transport from Northbourne Avenue through City, along Constitution Avenue to Russell and East Lake and/or along Adelaide Avenue to Woden.
- Implement specific public transport measures including:
 - bus priority and transit ways at key locations – Northbourne Avenue, Flemington Road, Canberra Avenue, Barry Drive (ANU), College Street and Haydon Drive
 - building new bus stations at Gungahlin, Erindale Centre, City West, Barton, Dickson, Molonglo Valley and Fyshwick
 - constructing Bike and Ride and Park and Ride facilities at key locations on public transport corridors.
- Implement scheduled strategic road investments that serve new residential areas and improve cross town linkages.
- Continue investment in cycle and pedestrian routes for new developments at Gungahlin, Molonglo Valley and East Lake.
- Pilot locally developed active transport options, including cycling and walking at selected school sites.

Longer term actions

- Expand the network of high frequency public transport corridors with bus priority and transitways.
- Prepare master plans for other key transport corridors to guide redevelopment and facilitate an efficient, more sustainable public transport system on the inter-town routes.
- Continue to invest in strategic road infrastructure for parkways, arterials and new suburban access, including the east–west corridor (between Molonglo Valley in the west and Queanbeyan in the east), the two north–south arterials of Gungahlin Drive and Majura Parkway/Monaro Highway.
- Establish a monitoring and review process to link investments in road and transport infrastructure with changes in travel demand.



Urban intensification is proposed for town and key group centres plus corridors along rapid public transit ways. The extent of these areas will be defined through master planning.



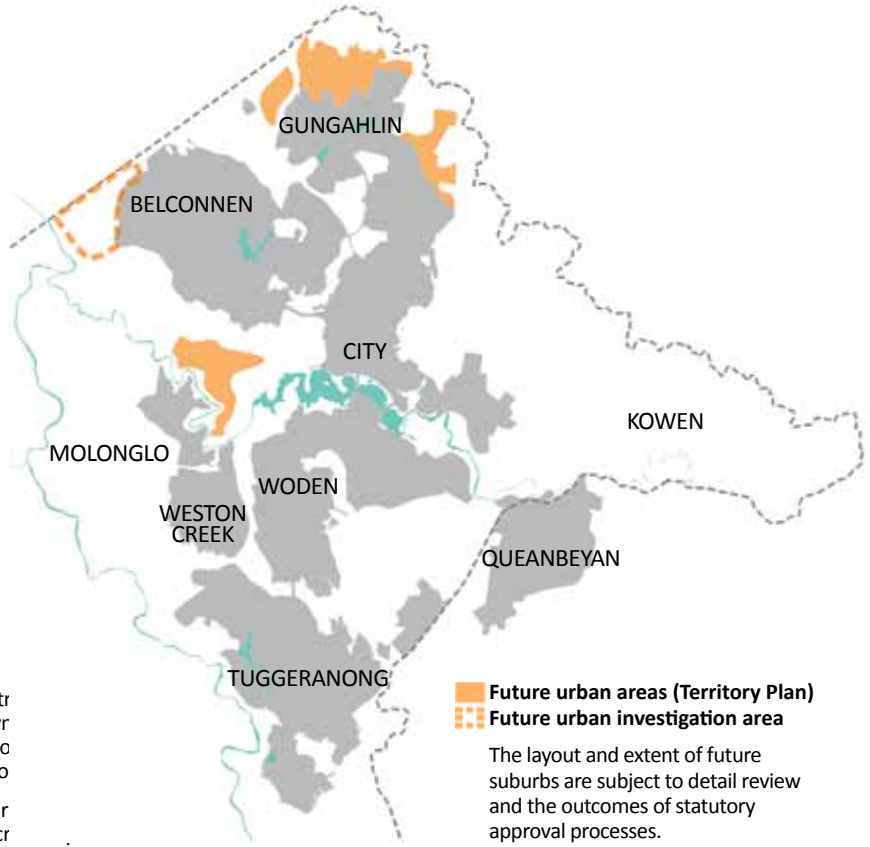
Belconnen/Bruce master plan

This master plan will reinforce the opportunities arising from the proximity of the town centre, the educational and sports facilities.



Northbourne Ave master plan

As the 'gateway' to Canberra and an important public transport corridor, this master plan is a key priority.



City master plan

This plan aims to bring together various proposed developments and opportunities to improve the urban character and vibrancy of City.



Woden/Mawson/Athllon Drive master plan

This area presents a unique and excellent opportunity for urban intensification that provides a range of development opportunities adjacent to public transport.

3 Provide more cost effective and sustainable living options by improving the existing housing stock and establishing more choice in housing types in a variety of locations.

Improving the options for how people to choose to live is critical to Outcomes A and C, with Canberra in 2030 being a city that

...makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.

...is at the centre of an innovative, prosperous region that has established a diverse clean economy and has a wide choice in jobs and lifestyles.

Where we live and the type of dwelling we live in affects how we defray our living costs. Providing more housing choice in each district will allow people to better match their needs according to household size, age, lifestyle, travel needs, income and preferences.

This strategy focuses on how we can create more diversity in the types of dwellings being provided and improve the environmental performance of new dwellings and existing housing stock.

Making Canberra a more affordable place to live is an imperative for our continued prosperity. Attracting people to live in Canberra is necessary to support a good level of services and diversity in our growing employment sector. This strategy, with strategies 1 and 2, focuses on how we can make Canberra liveable, accessible and affordable.

Implementing this strategy means

Focusing redevelopment in and around centres can create diversity in dwelling types, sizes and tenures across the existing metropolitan area without compromising the suburban character.

More affordable urban living can be created with mixed use developments providing 'shop top' and studio apartments in group and local centres.

People should be encouraged to move to a dwelling that better accommodates their changing circumstances, without having to move out of their neighbourhood. Creating a greater choice of housing in each suburb and district makes it easier for people to 'age in the community'. There is greater availability of homes for people to buy in an existing suburban area at a reasonable price.

Greenfield residential development can add to the housing choice and provide affordable house and land packages. These new residential areas can establish variety and choice in housing at the outset.

Working closely with industry and the community sector, greater variety in social housing can be provided in areas close to shops and services.

Canberra houses will be more sustainable and energy efficient, and exemplify good design and construction. This will make homes more affordable to run.

In implementing this strategy it will be necessary to monitor and regularly evaluate the outcomes from the residential, social and affordable housing policies. Only by reviewing the outcomes and comparing the merits of the various mechanisms can government assess what policies, land supply and financial measures are having best effect.

Short-term actions

- Use the master plan process to identify key sites and opportunities for the ACT Government to partner with industry to develop exemplars and catalyst projects in areas for urban intensification. These projects can provide greater housing diversity and include more affordable dwellings and public housing. Sites in City, Woden, Belconnen and along Northbourne Avenue are to be a priority.
- Start the redevelopment of the Bega Allawah Currong complex and the redevelopment of multi-unit public housing sites in Ainslie Avenue, Northbourne Avenue and Red Hill.
- Investigate a schedule of incentives to reward residential developments that incorporate universal housing, affordable housing and environmental sustainability measures that go beyond best practice.
- Evaluate the sustainability measures in the Territory Plan residential and estate codes in regard to achieving the targets and measures set out in the ACT Government's policy and action plan on addressing climate change. Include community and industry in the consultation. Depending on the findings, start a review of these codes and regulations.
- Investigate the implications of, and prepare a policy position on, including provisions in the Territory Plan residential code regarding the mix of units to be provided, such as setting a minimum number of three-bedroom apartments.
- Include targets for estate plans to establish a mix of housing types in the planning and development frameworks for new suburbs.
- Identify sites of suitable size and location for housing developments for the elderly in both established areas and new suburbs' planning and development frameworks.

Longer term actions

- Continue to identify public/private partnership opportunities to improve housing diversity and provide a range of public housing.
- Progressively invest in the renewal and redevelopment of public housing stock to realign the social housing stock to meet the needs of the range of clients, ensuring proximity to services and transport.
- Monitor the land release program to ensure adequate land supply to support the Affordable Housing Action Plan.



4 Ensure everyone has convenient access to a range of facilities, services and opportunities for social interaction by reinforcing the role of group and local centres as community hubs.

Canberra's centres ensure people are in good proximity to services, this strategy will deliver on Outcome B, with Canberra in 2030 being a city

...where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic and cultural life.

Canberra's planning has been based on a range of services and community needs being provided within each suburb and district. Schools, libraries, child care centres and other community facilities have been located at the heart of our suburbs and districts. Ensuring people are close to services has contributed to Canberra's good accessibility and liveability.

This strategy reinforces the role and importance of local and group centres as the hubs of community life.

Good access to a variety of community facilities and services will help build social exchange and general wellbeing in the community. However, because substantial investment is required to provide these services, we must ensure they can be used for many generations and can adapt to changing community needs. The first three strategies will create density and housing choice to facilitate a social mix in our neighbourhoods and support this strategy to ensure a variety of services are kept in the community.

Implementing this strategy means

Group and local centres will remain key meeting places and places of cultural and community expression. Despite changes to work and shopping patterns and community demographics, these centres can still be social and commercial hubs. Encouraging mixed use developments in these centres can provide affordable locations for new businesses and community services. More importantly, the centres can offer an alternative living environment to town centres and suburbs.

New residential areas must have sufficient space for, and high priority given to, the establishment of community facilities such as schools, meeting places, aged and child care centres, parks and play areas.

It is important to retain existing community facilities in established suburbs and incorporate new facilities, such as community gardens.

The actions in strategy 3 and Transport for Canberra to enhance transport networks will provide a level of choice in mobility. While dispersing services in centres puts them closer to people, there must still be a choice of convenient travel modes to access them.

Investing in new technologies, such as broadband, will improve people's access to information on services and amenities, which can foster greater social participation. Many people use the internet to find out what is available in their community. This form of communication and participation is becoming more significant for busy people and those who are less mobile.

The implementation of this strategy will ensure investment in community facilities is purposeful and integrated with other services to improve Canberra's social sustainability.

Short-term actions

- Prepare a Community Facilities Strategic Plan to support an estimated population of 453,000 in 2030, including:
 - audit and review the existing infrastructure capacity and the land defined and used for this
 - establish base data to monitor changing demographic profile and consequent community needs
 - plan for new greenfield development and urban intensification areas.
- Identify mixed use sites in town, group and local centres (through the master plan process) to support the viability and vibrancy of centres. As part of this, give priority to identifying opportunities to partner with industry to provide community facilities in a more cost effective manner.
- Provide for community facilities (new or renewal), including:
 - a learning centre at Tuggeranong
 - a community and arts precinct at Kingston Foreshore
 - childcare centres, schools and neighbourhood halls to support the new suburbs in Molonglo Valley and Gungahlin.

Longer term actions

- Continue, through master plans, to identify opportunities to incorporate the necessary community facilities in areas of urban intensification.
- Construct schools in the new residential areas of East Lake, Gungahlin and Molonglo Valley and address any need for new schools in areas of urban intensification.



5 Enhance Canberra's system of public spaces, providing vibrant, pleasant urban parks and places that everyone can enjoy by ensuring they are safe and accessible for the most vulnerable in our community.

Investing in the public spaces is pivotal to achieving Outcomes B and D, with Canberra in 2030 being a city

...where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic and cultural life.

...that is the 'capital in the bush', recognised for the quality of its public places and buildings that reflect its unique climate, character and identity.

Canberra's system of parks and natural spaces is a unique and valuable heritage. Creating new public spaces, improving the quality and maintenance of our existing spaces and improving access will encourage more people to enjoy Canberra's landscapes.

This strategy will guide us in planning and designing our streets and parks to be safe and enjoyable for the most vulnerable groups in our community, the elderly and children. By adopting this approach we will ensure they are attractive for everyone.

Further, this strategy reinforces the network of open spaces in Canberra's public realm and the significant contribution it makes to how we experience the city. Few cities have such a comprehensive system of spaces providing almost continuous access for a range of users through the urban area. To retain and enhance the recreational, environmental and social health values of Canberra's open spaces, they must be designed and managed as a system.

Implementing this strategy means

Canberra will be a more liveable city. Investing in the public realm has flow-on economic and social benefits with residents enjoying a general sense of wellbeing and visitors feeling welcome.

Providing easy access to reserves, play areas and parks will be particularly important in areas of urban intensification. As renewal and redevelopment occurs, so must investment in parks and reserves designed to meet the needs of a range of users, including the very young wanting a place to play, adolescents seeking more challenging sport activities, dog owners looking for a place to exercise their animal companions, and the elderly seeking a place to sit comfortably in the sun.

The design and management of Canberra's network of open spaces – the street verges, parks and reserves – can encourage us to walk or cycle to work, shops or school. In tempting people to use these spaces we are fostering greater participation in the community and improving personal and public health.

Canberra's public spaces are critical social infrastructure. Implementing the actions under this strategy will address the design and management of this infrastructure to ensure its value as a network that fosters activity and participation in the community.

Short-term actions

- Develop both age- and child-friendly design guidelines for incorporation in the Territory Plan. These guidelines will inform the preparation of master, concept and estate development plans.
- Use the master plan process to identify an integrated approach to the development, renewal and management of the public realm – the urban squares, parks, streets and reserves. This work will inform the precinct upgrade program for centres.
- Further promote and develop opportunities for community gardens.
- Develop and implement master plans for Canberra Stadium, Manuka Oval and Stromlo Forest Park.
- Develop new sports fields to support the new residential areas in Gungahlin and Molonglo Valley and existing residential areas, such as Woden.

Longer term actions

- Through master plans, identify a program of improvements and upgrades necessary to the public realm in established areas.
- Map and digitise the condition of the public realm, linking this information to facilitate the integration of management and maintenance funding with the use and function of the space. Prioritise expenditure to ensure the continuing amenity of the public realm.
- Develop a schedule of events and activities for town parks to encourage participation in public spaces.



6

Invest in design that will ensure urban change creates amenity, diversity and a more sustainable built form, and adds to Canberra's landscape setting.

Canberrans understand the value of good design, this strategy will help to achieve Outcomes A, D and E, with Canberra in 2030 being a city that

...makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.

...is the 'capital in the bush', recognised for the quality of its public places and buildings that reflect its unique climate, character and identity.

...is at the centre of a region that demonstrates the benefits of good stewardship of the land, its resources and the beauty of the rivers, mountains and plains.

Walter Burley Griffin's design used the landscape to set out the functions and avenues for a city that would symbolise an emerging democratic nation. He believed this was important if people were to appreciate the country, participate in the community and exercise their citizenship.

This strategy responds to Canberrans' clear message that the design of our buildings and spaces must respond to Canberra's unique landscape and environment while allowing for innovation and the reflection of people's changing values.

While Canberra is an internationally recognised planned and designed city, historically the emphasis has been on the ceremonial and civic spaces. This emphasis must be extended to the design of the architecture and public space of Canberra's town, group and local centres.

Design at all scales must adopt the key principles of:

- respond to the site
- create connections
- encourage diversity
- grow and adapt over time
- tell stories, nurture community and reinforce identity.

Implementing this strategy means

Any new development, be it in an existing suburb or a new estate, will respond to the essential quality of the place.

Each of Canberra's suburbs and districts has a subtly different urban character that must be recognised. These differences are derived from many things, including the views to the mountains, the road pattern, the landform, the trees and the cultural expression of the community itself.

Canberra's natural and cultural heritage is valued and managed. Using what we know about a place, retaining the evidence of that history and weaving this into the layout, landscape and architecture, helps build a 'story' and adds the cultural dimension particular to that place.

We can create greater diversity in Canberra's urban environment by focusing urban intensification on centres and the rapid public transport corridors. We can also add to Canberra's amenity and vitality.

Mixed use developments will bring people to live in these areas, giving them life after work hours. Buildings that front pedestrian spaces and main streets will have ground floor uses that contribute to the activity of the street.

To meet the needs of people living in a more urban environment, we must add to our network of parks, recreational facilities, walking and cycling network. The spaces and facilities we add do not need to be lavish or expansive but must be well-located and designed. The paths that connect these spaces with other destinations must be safe, direct, well-lit and well-maintained.

Designing and building for Canberra's environment is to be a priority. Buildings must be 'fit' for Canberra's climate. The form, massing and articulation of buildings must recognise the contribution each makes to the character and microclimate of the street and public places.

Implementing the actions in this strategy will establish a focus on the quality of Canberra's urban and architectural design.

Short-term actions

- Establish a design review panel to provide advice to the ACT Government on major public projects and developments.
- Give adopted master plans greater policy status to inform capital works bids and decisions on key development proposals. These plans, developed through extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders, encapsulate the key values of the community and articulate what is critical to the place-making and urban design.
- Investigate a schedule of incentives and awards that acknowledge commercial and residential developments that demonstrate quality design and incorporate innovative environmental sustainability measures.
- Digitise and cross-reference data pertaining to cultural and natural heritage sites with the geographical information systems maintained by the planning authority. This will provide continuity in development assessments and assist in the protection and incorporation of these sites into new developments.
- Continue to work with the National Capital Authority to identify the design principles that will retain the character/national significance for key areas, particularly the inner hills, main avenues and approach routes.
- After the preparation of a plan for City, prepare designs for the renewal and refurbishment of the Civic Square Precinct, including preparing options for the redevelopment of Canberra Theatre.
- Undertake the planning and design for a new Supreme Court.
- Open the National Arboretum by 2013.

Longer term actions

- Identify projects that demonstrate leadership and work with industry to implement them in areas identified for urban intensification, including City, Woden and Belconnen town centres and Northbourne Avenue.
- Evaluate the outcomes of the Territory Plan residential and commercial codes in regard to delivering the sustainability outcomes required in the ACT Government's policy and action plan on addressing climate change. Include community and industry in the evaluation. Depending on the findings of the evaluation, address the need to review the codes.



7 Improve the city's efficiency, resilience to change and environmental sustainability by designing and incorporating innovative technologies and 'clean' initiatives into the physical infrastructure.

The distribution, design and efficiency of the infrastructure is critical to delivering Outcomes A, B and E, with Canberra in 2030 being a city

...that makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.

...where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic and cultural life.

...that is at the centre of a region that demonstrates the benefits of good stewardship of the land, its resources and the beauty of the rivers, mountains and plains.

The design and management of infrastructure that supports urban living—the streets, reserves, water supply, stormwater, sewer and energy systems—must ensure they are efficient and resilient. This is vital to community wellbeing.

This strategy addresses how to use the city's infrastructure more efficiently and incorporate the best environmentally sustainable practices and technologies into these systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Creating a more compact city that uses its infrastructure more efficiently was a key premise of the 2004 Spatial Plan. Compact cities allow us to contain the extent of infrastructure we build and maximise the number of people it serves, making it more cost and energy efficient. To improve the environmental sustainability of the city we must design, manage, restore and/or retrofit this infrastructure. This means identifying the advantages, the costs and how best to coordinate improvements in these systems.

Progressively investing in this new and retrofitted infrastructure will improve our resilience to climate change, minimising community disruption caused by catastrophic events and mitigating the extremes of our microclimate.

Implementing this strategy means

Investing in the mapping and recording of the condition of Canberra's infrastructure is necessary to undertake risk assessments and inform a strategy for its design, replacement and management. While the city's roads, stormwater, power and water supply systems have been well-designed and engineered, we must understand its condition. Accurate surveying and recording is important to planning and managing the city in times of disaster. It is also critical to the planning and sequencing of the construction and renewal of systems so they can be rolled out efficiently and cost effectively.

Being innovative and incorporating new uses into the physical infrastructure will improve our city's sustainability. However, we may have to alter our standards and expectations; for example, if we want stormwater to water trees in our streets we have to change the kerbs and gutters. Urban intensification may provide a catalyst to incorporate new technologies in the established areas.

The possibility of diversifying and dispersing the source of the city's energy to lower our greenhouse gas emissions is being addressed through the consultation on Weathering the Change: Draft Action 2.

Canberra's streets and public spaces must continue to be designed to ameliorate and improve the urban microclimate, reducing wind and dust and providing shelter and summer shade. This is an important investment in the public realm that ensures everyone enjoys a city better adapted to climate change.

Emergency Services need to be able to respond throughout existing and new urban areas, to 'day-to-day' emergencies as well as future 'disasters'. The risks and the measures to mitigate them are ever changing, as the city grows and with impacts from climate change. Therefore the placement and quantity of facilities needs to be routinely re-evaluated and carefully distributed throughout the city.

Canberra's system of streets, parks and waterways can provide important habitat that improves the connectivity of ecosystems. The design of these public spaces should support and extend our natural systems (such as the Dickson and Lyneham wetlands) to improve the quality of Canberra's environment and foster resilience to climate change. This recognises the role 'green infrastructure' can play in providing us with clean air and water.

In implementing this strategy it will be important to apply 'whole of life' analysis to infrastructure proposals to ensure they are sustainable and can be efficiently managed into the future.

Short-term actions

- Ramp up investment and resources into Virtual ACT (the mapping and digitising of data on the condition of Canberra's infrastructure). This is critical if agencies are to coordinate investment in upgrades and maintenance of public assets.
- Continue to encourage investment in renewable energy, investigate waste to energy, and advance the development of distributed energy generation.
- Develop and expand the Hume and Mugga Lane resource recovery and management centres.
- Invest in waste facilities and technologies that enable the recovery and processing of organic waste from the commercial and domestic sectors.
- Complete the enlarged Cotter Dam and the Murrumbidgee to Googong Dam pump and transfer pipeline.
- Prepare a new ACT sewerage strategy.
- Prepare a strategic investment plan for Canberra's treed landscape.

Longer term actions

- Develop and establish a system of environmental performance indicators to inform decisions on public works and to monitor the increase in land use efficiency.
- Develop exemplars that incorporate and test new technologies.
- Prepare strategic plans for the urban area that create wildlife and vegetation links to improve ecosystem service.



- 8 Value the land and natural resources of the region by working collaboratively to manage urban growth, ensure connectivity and continuity in the natural systems and, where appropriate, conserve agriculturally productive land.**

Land is our most critical resource, managing it wisely is important to Outcomes A, D and E, with Canberra in 2030 being a city that

...makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.

...is the 'capital in the bush', recognised for the quality of its public places and buildings that reflect its unique climate, character and identity.

...is at the centre of a region that demonstrates the benefits of good stewardship of the land, its resources and the beauty of the rivers, mountains and plains.

What we mean by 'the region'

The Australian Capital Region (ACR) comprising the 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs) plus the ACT is commonly understood to be our region.

However, the geographic extent of the region depends on the issue concerned. For example with education and health services, the region may extend further inland; for biodiversity, it may extend further north and south.

To ensure the most sustainable use of land, we must look beyond the ACT border and consider the region as a whole. The ACT is next to some of the fastest growing areas in NSW and there are growing relationships between the ACT and surrounding areas in terms of housing, transport, employment and services.

This strategy is about working with the NSW state and neighbouring local governments to develop mutually beneficial solutions to the issues around urban growth, resource management, environmental protection and retention of agriculturally productive land. It recognises we face similar issues and can improve our understanding of these by sharing information, monitoring trends and preparing collaborative responses.

The NSW/ACT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides a basis to work together to address growth challenges affecting the region. A specific action under the MOU is the preparation of a strategic plan for land use and infrastructure that reflects the unique characteristics of the region. This Canberra and Region Strategic Plan - Land Use and Infrastructure (Regional Strategic Plan), will provide a mechanism to deliver collaborative strategic land use and growth-related infrastructure planning across the ACT and NSW region.

Implementing this strategy means

Towns and villages in Canberra and NSW will be viewed collectively so we have effective services to support growth, sufficient land available to meet demand, and consideration of the full costs of development – social, environmental and economic. Strategies will be prepared to retain the function and identity of regional villages and towns as distinct places, rather than a continuation of the Canberra urban area. Areas for future possible settlement within the ACT, including Kowen Plateau in the east and west Belconnen, will be considered in a regional context and in terms of their interrelationships with immediately adjoining areas of NSW.

Strategies will be prepared to use land in the ACT and region more carefully and sustainably. Urban growth will be focused on existing urban areas, towns and villages. The lifestyle opportunities afforded by the region will be recognised and supported – the opportunity to live in an urban or suburban environment, rural village, the 'bush' or on a farm.

Areas of high ecological, agricultural, landscape or scenic value will be conserved, with a focus on regional connectivity. Identified heritage sites, places and landscapes will be protected and conserved so intrinsic links to the region's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage are kept for future generations.

The interface of the suburban edge with adjoining natural or rural areas will be carefully designed and managed having regard to the threat of bushfire and the need to control other hazards such as weed infestation, predation of native fauna, contamination hazards and flooding.

Consideration will be given to where infrastructure can be extended, modified or connected to improve people's mobility and freight distribution or add to the region's economic potential.

In implementing this strategy the equal partnering with NSW is important to develop a Regional Strategic Plan, improve sharing of data for 'evidence based' planning decisions and undertake further studies into agricultural lands protection, food security and regional biodiversity connectivity.

Short-term actions

- Partner with the NSW Government and local councils in the region to commence the Regional Strategic Plan in accordance with the MOU. This work will include identifying and defining:
 - urban settlements that provide diversity in lifestyle options
 - infrastructure and utility services, including mechanisms to apportion relative costs to jurisdictions
 - areas of key significance for agriculture, biodiversity and cultural heritage
 - land and localities for industry.
- Undertake a study on local food production to understand the nature and extent of this sector and how it can be enhanced through approaches to land planning and economic development.
- Initiate a study to assess the issues, best uses and management for the lands on the city's western boundary.
- Continue to undertake more detailed planning for locations such as:
 - the Molonglo Valley, which will be a vibrant residential area. It will be a model for sustainable urban development and the efficient use of land.
 - the Eastern Broadacre area (which extends from the Majura Valley to Hume and includes Symonston and the Jerrabomberra Valley) to determine the capability for providing future light industrial and other uses, given it also has important environmental values.
 - the ACT's rural villages, because the distinctive character of these villages can easily be lost with inappropriate development. Master plans should set guidelines to retain the character of these villages while allowing for limited growth.

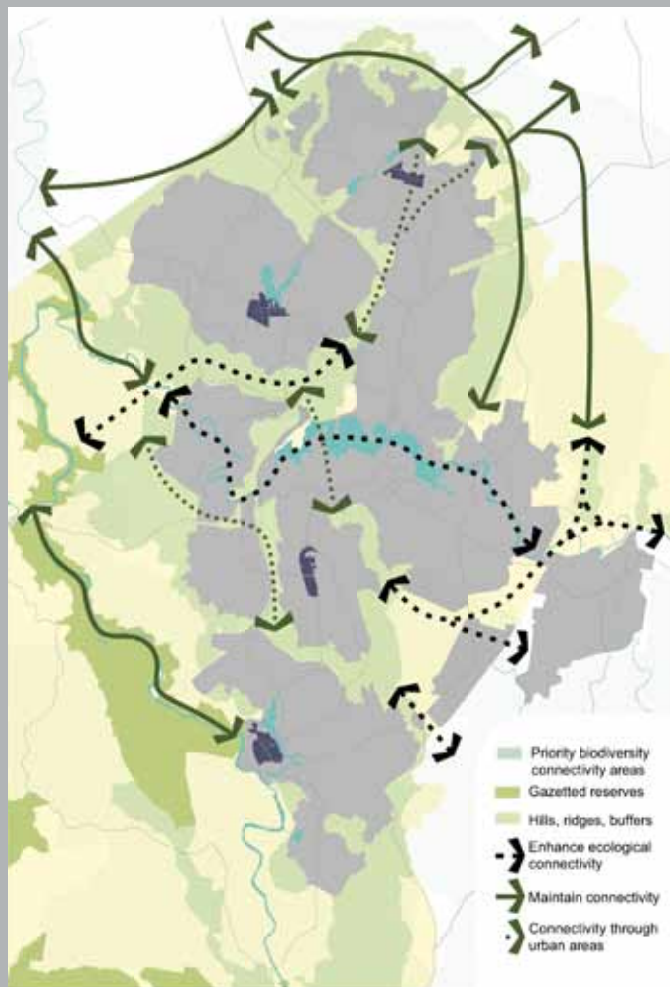
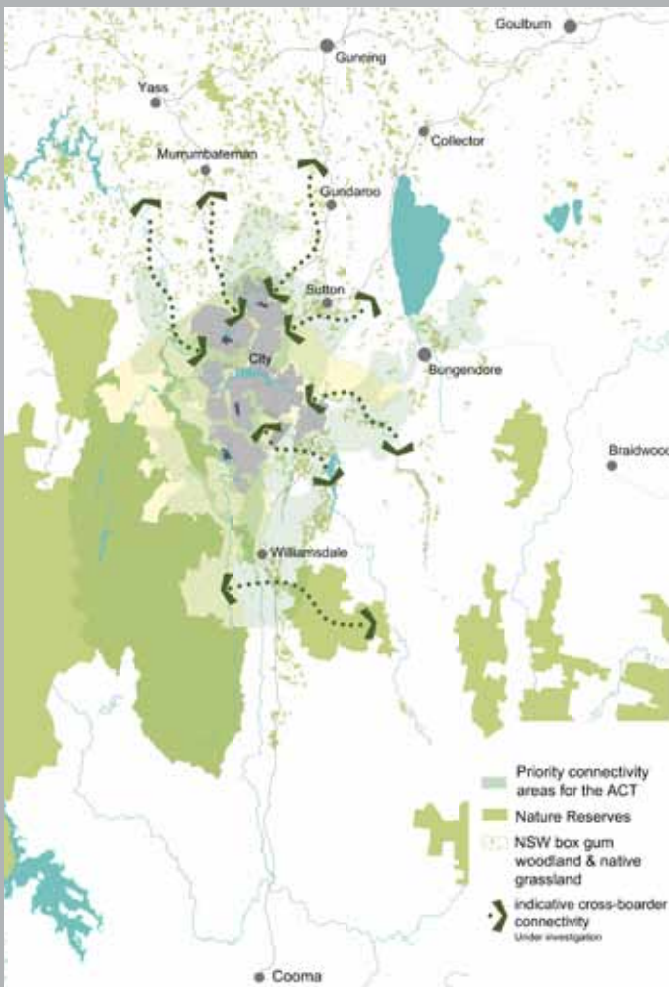
Longer term actions

- Continue to investigate the potential impacts of climate change.
- Undertake investigations of the Kowen Plateau in consultation with NSW and other stakeholders.
- Investigate settlement/lifestyle options in the ACT and across the border in the context of the Sydney to Canberra Corridor Regional Strategy and the Regional Strategic Plan.
- Collaborate with the NSW state and regional local governments to establish:
 - common land management strategies and agreements for non-urban lands
 - regional biodiversity and connectivity plan to improve connectivity of ecosystems.

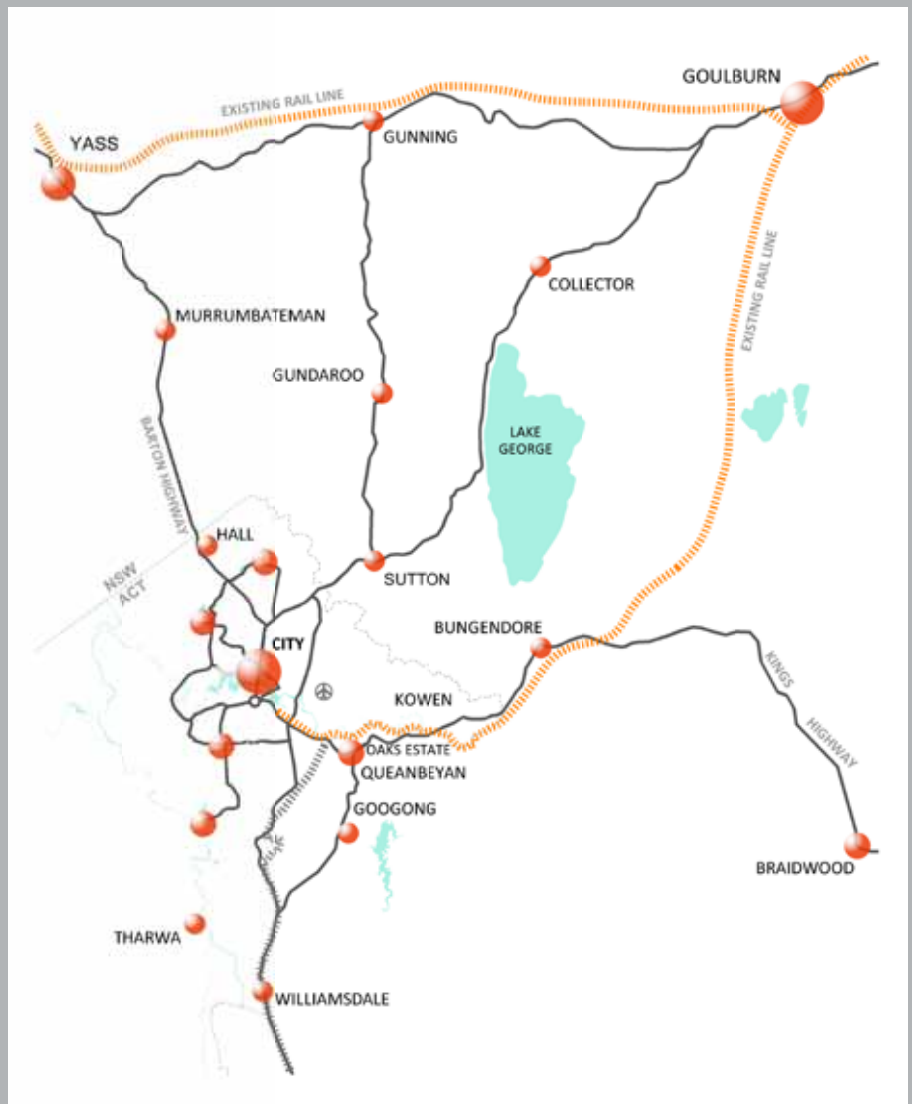




The Australian Capital Region



Biodiversity and connectivity in the ACT and region



Regional centres and transport networks

Working collaboratively with the region we can address transport and urban growth to support services, protect biodiversity and develop a resilient economy.



9 Facilitate the development of a more prosperous region and a diverse economy by enhancing our travel and information networks and creating opportunities for a range of new enterprises.

Working collaboratively with our regional neighbours is significant to Outcomes B and C, with Canberra in 2030 being a city

...where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic and cultural life.

...that is at the centre of an innovative, prosperous region that has established a diverse clean economy and has a wide choice in jobs and lifestyles.

Our economic prosperity will improve when we work with neighbouring local, NSW and Australian governments, private enterprise and the community to be more sustainable.

This strategy is about making the best use of Canberra and the region's economic advantages – our knowledge industry and diverse environment.

Canberra is the centre of a region that is well-placed to develop a 'clean', resilient economy that fosters competition, innovation and creativity. By investing in communication and transport networks and by making Canberra and the region an affordable, attractive place to live, we can entice a range of businesses and industries to locate here. In turn, this will attract more people to live here, to participate in what the region has to offer and support more services and enterprises.

A significant economic advantage can be realised by promoting the liveability of Canberra and the knowledge and administrative based industries that have grown up around the business of delivering good government. This strong basis in Canberra, combined with our diverse agricultural region, provides opportunities to build complementary economic activities to develop and promote regional products that offer greater diversity in employment and expand on tourism.

The ACT Government's strategic policy on business development will ensure that opportunities for employment growth and diversification are realised from the emerging digital economy. This strategy contains a range of initiatives across the themes of business environment, business investment and business innovation. There are significant prospects for business and industry from the emerging 'clean' technology sector, for example with the rollout of the National Broadband Network and the ACT's tertiary research and growing creative sector.

Implementing this strategy means

Expanding travel and freight connections will improve access to other regional, national and international markets. As well as lobbying for a high speed rail, the region must take a strategic, coordinated approach to investing in air, road and other rail connections.

A high speed rail to Sydney and Melbourne will link Canberra to these commercial and financial capitals and make the region more accessible for tourism and more attractive to people seeking lifestyle changes.

Collaboration in managing and investing in the generation of renewable energy has significant implications for this region. There are advantages to be gleaned from Canberra's knowledge and research based industry, as well as the region's climate and geography that are well-suited to the generation of clean energy.

The regional demands placed on Canberra for services and the implications for effective delivery must be considered. Canberra is the regional centre for a population estimated to grow to over half a million people in the next ten years. This places continuing and growing demands

on the services Canberra provides to the region, particularly its hospitals and schools. Addressing the means of funding and planning for the delivery of these services will require greater quantification and better information about what exists in the region.

It is important to improve the reality of Canberra as a quality place to live, work, study and invest by supporting further development of the education, research, science and technology sectors with identification and use zoning of land.

Implementing this strategy means continuing to work with our regional neighbours to understand our current strengths and ways to build a more sustainable, resilient and prosperous economy for future generations.

Short-term actions

- Prepare planning studies in response to the Australian Government's High Speed Rail Study and make recommendations to determine and capture the maximum value from land use changes and associated development.
- Progress the Eastern Broadacre Study investigations, to advance planning for employment locations and add to the land supply program in Symonston, Hume and Beard.
- Work with the NSW and local regional governments to develop a web portal to share data and information (environmental, social and economic) to help the regional approach to settlement and infrastructure planning, land management and environmental protection.
- Investigate the land use requirements for transport-related economic development, including an intermodal freight facility served by national highways and near existing industrial lands and the airport.
- Ensure Canberra Airport's growth and development is considered with regional, metropolitan and transport planning issues and addressed with ongoing consultation under the ACT Government and Canberra Airport Pty Ltd MOU, 2010.
- Strengthen Hume as an industrial employment location in the ACT and region.

Longer term actions

- Implement the ACT Government's policy Growth Diversification and Jobs: A Business Development Strategy, 2012. This provides a framework for a more sustainable, diverse economy for the ACT and region.
- Collaborate with the region on strategies to enhance employment and prosperity by:
 - undertaking integrated service planning, initially focusing on health and education
 - identifying appropriate sequencing of strategic infrastructure and cost sharing arrangements for its construction
 - preparing an ACT and region freight strategy for air, road and rail in consultation with regional stakeholders.



TRACKING FOR SUCCESS



To get the Canberra we want in 2030 we must regularly review our progress and evaluate its success. Only by monitoring our position can we check if we are on course and evaluate the need to make changes to stay on course.

The Canberra we want in 2030 is encapsulated in the five outcomes of this Strategy. These outcomes are what we must aim for and it is against these outcomes that we will report and be accountable to those who have an investment in this Strategy – the Canberra community.

Monitoring indicators

Many factors influenced the selection of these indicators, including relevance, availability and accuracy of the data to measure them.

Some of the indicators are the same as those in companion policy documents – The Canberra Plan, Transport for Canberra and Weathering the Change. This reflects the inter-dependence and the need for a range of policies to introduce and manage the changes to achieve a more sustainable, creative city.

The indicators have all been expressed as ‘trends’ – that is an increase, decrease or balance in the measurement of change towards the outcome. Using these indicators takes into account that change in how a city develops requires time and is dependent on a range of factors. These indicators measure the direction and rate of desired change.

Monitoring trends annually will provide a clearer picture of what has occurred when the Strategy is evaluated in five years. It means anomalies that may occur from significant social, environmental or economic events (e.g. natural disasters or down turns in world markets) will be reflected and able to be accounted for in the reporting and evaluation.

Before we can report on these trends we need to establish exactly ‘where we are now’. To do this it is necessary to collate data from several sources but especially from the 2011 Census. This data will be available to set a baseline in 2013 and allow monitoring to commence.



Measuring and reporting

Table 1 overleaf shows the indicators for each of the five outcomes statements, with their measures for how trends are to be monitored. From 2013, when all baseline data will be available, there will be annual measuring.

Reporting will occur (generally) at the end of the calendar year after data has been collected at the end of the financial year. The advantage of this timing is it permits the government to consider the trends and their implications in addressing budget priorities.

The actions associated with the nine strategies fall across the remit of a number of government directorates. Under the Canberra Plan, this Strategy and its companion policies will help inform relevant directorate business plans and business cases. Funding to implement the key actions will be made in accordance with strategic priorities and budget processes.

Each directorate is required to report annually on its business operations. Using these reports the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate will monitor and report on the actions. This will be made publicly available through the web.

Evaluation

After five years, in 2017, the Executive of Government must consider the need to review the ACT Planning Strategy. This is required under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*.

By 2017 there will be a body of evidence, collated and recorded against the outcomes and indicators defined, that will clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of the directions set out in this Strategy.

The evaluation in five years will:

- analyse the trends from the indicators to forecast if the Strategy will achieve the outcomes
- compare the actions that have been undertaken in the five year period against those in the nine strategies (this will help to assess the efficacy of the guidance from the Strategy)
- review the context – that is, have the main issues and challenges changed and are there more pressing matters.

Of key importance will be to consult with the community, including providing the findings of the evaluation. This is critical to provide contemporary views and values and gauge the issues of most concern in planning for the city and our region.

Table 1 Showing indicators and measures under each of the five outcomes

INDICATORS	MEASURES
Outcome A In 2030 Canberra will be a city that makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT State of the Environment report shows continuously improving trends in the seven headline measures, including the land, water, biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, climate effects, waste and ecological footprint. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data is collected by Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment (OSCE) for the State of the Environment (SOE) and will be reported against by Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of new housing delivered through urban intensification is 50% or more. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from building approvals by suburb and dwelling type and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is greater diversity in the types of dwellings within each district in Canberra with an increasing percentage of attached housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of dwelling types 'other' versus 'detached', using data from ABS Census collected on house categories in each district.
Outcome B In 2030 Canberra will be a city where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic cultural life.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport for Canberra actions 1, 2, 3 and 8 are progressively implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected and measured against Transport for Canberra will be incorporated into this reporting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The diversity of facilities and functions within centres increases and there is a trend for these to be distributed across each of the districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from commercial floor space inventory. Investment by public and private sectors in group and local centres at a rate above the ACT population growth using data from Construction Snapshot and development applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing number of children and adults across all age cohorts participate in sufficient physical activity every day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected and measured by ACT Health will be incorporated into this reporting. Indicators from Strategic Plan for Sport and Active Recreation in the ACT and Region – ACTIVE 2020 are increasingly achieved.
Outcome C In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of an innovative, prosperous region that has established a diverse 'clean' economy and has a wide choice in jobs and lifestyles.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is sustained growth in employment in the ACT and across the region with an increasing proportion of jobs in the private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from ABS Census on employment rates in the ACT and National Capital Region.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing number of jobs in the ACT and region are in the knowledge economy sectors, including businesses orientated towards 'clean tech' and environmental sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from ABS Labour force survey (nominated employment sectors to be identified) and from Economic Development Directorate monitoring of Business Development Strategy outcomes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing proportion of the population has post-secondary education in the ACT and across the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected and measured by the Directorate of Education and Training will be incorporated into this reporting.
Outcome D In 2030 Canberra will be the 'capital in the bush', recognised for the quality of its public places and buildings that reflect its unique climate, character and identity.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing number of recognised, exemplar developments with integrated public realm spaces, roads and/or buildings in Canberra. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments per year that receive industry or national awards and or Precinx (or equivalent) accreditation, using data from ACTPLA development applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental sustainability and quality of design and construction is increased, with a growing proportion of new and existing public and commercial buildings achieving 6 star Greenstar or equivalent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments recorded with Greenstar or National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) accreditation, using data from ACTPLA development applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of tourists visiting Canberra and the region continues to increase each year, with tourist spending increasing its contribution to Gross Territory Product. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected and measured by ACT Tourism and from Economic Development Directorate, will be incorporated into this reporting.
Outcome E In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of a region that demonstrates the benefits of good stewardship of the land, its resources and the beauty of the rivers, mountains and plains.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land take per person in the ACT continues to reduce from 480 ha per thousand people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed land (excluding nature conservation areas) in hectares per person, using data from ESDD, ABS and SOE.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in natural resource management activities per person increases annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of groups or individuals per year undertaking activities, using data from Natural Resource Management Council and local Catchment Management Authorities.

Where are we now

This section gives an indication of our starting point – where we are now in relation to the five outcomes.

Outcome A

In 2030 Canberra will be a city that makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.



The 2011 State of the Environment Report (SOE) shows that our ecological footprint has been consistently increasing since measurement started. In 2008-09 it was 9.2 global ha. This represents an increase of almost 25% in 10 years and is 13% above the current Australian average.

In regard to the ACT SOE headline indicators:

- water quality is the same on leaving the ACT as entering
- three new species were listed as threatened, compromising the biodiversity of the ACT
- GHG emissions increased by 7% between 2005 to 2009
- waste generation per person increased by 28% from 2007 to 2011 (the population increased by 5.5%).

Urban intensification has been increasing since 2006. Between 2007 and 2011, 72% of new development was in greenfields areas. Similarly, the diversity of housing is increasing with many more types of dwellings. Currently ACT data captures 'detached' or 'other' (e.g. apartments and townhouses). To measure change and allow accurate reporting from 2013, data is required on the different types of dwellings (separating out the 'other' category to match the ABS).

Indicators

The ACT State of the Environment report shows continuously improving trends in the seven headline measures, including the land, water, biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, climate effects, waste and ecological footprint.

The proportion of new housing delivered through urban intensification is 50% or more.

There is greater diversity in the types of dwellings within each district in Canberra with an increasing percentage of attached housing.



Outcome B

In 2030 Canberra will be a city where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic cultural life.

Indicators

Transport for Canberra actions 1, 2, 3 and 8 are progressively implemented.

The diversity of facilities and functions within centres increases and there is a trend for these to be distributed across each of the districts.

An increasing number of children and adults across all age cohorts participate in sufficient physical activity every day.

Transport for Canberra is an adopted ACT Government policy that has set out its monitoring framework. Reporting on indicators from this policy will be fully integrated with this Strategy.

The indicator on the diversity of facilities in centres and the distribution of these across districts is critical to understanding how accessible various services are. Maintaining this diversity and spread is important to retaining a social mix across Canberra's districts.

The diversity of functions in group centres can be measured via data from the commercial floor inventory. This data is available through the regularly conducted survey, which can be expanded to include community facilities. This would address the broader intent of this indicator.

Investment – public and private – is useful to gauge the diversity and vibrancy of centres. The levels of investment is currently tracked through two main ACT Government sources, the Construction Snapshot and construction value data captured through development applications.

ACT Health monitors levels of physical activity through a combination of local surveys, including the ACT's annual General Health Survey, as well as data collected nationally. These statistics will be incorporated into reporting on this Strategy.

Self-reported physical activity levels in ACT adults are measured through the *General Health Survey* each year. In 2007-08, 57% of ACT adults participated in sufficient physical activity to meet the Australian Government's Physical Activity guidelines, which recommend that adults have at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity on most, preferably all, days of the week. Research undertaken in 2010, the *ACT Workplace Health Promotion Needs Analysis* found that two thirds of people in the workforce in the ACT do not undertake sufficient physical activity to achieve health benefits.

The most recent survey measuring children's participation in physical activity is the *ACT Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey* (ACTPANS) undertaken in 2009, following on from 2006. Results found encouraging trends 'notably that the proportion of overweight or obese Year 6 children in the ACT has plateaued and overall physical activity has increased'. The survey found that the Australian Government's Physical Activity recommendations for 60 minutes a day of moderate physical activity were achieved by 22.6% of Year 6 children.

With the above basis for improvement, the Health Directorate's *Physical Activity Strategic Framework* has the target for 2015, of 60% of all adults and 20% of all (school aged) children meeting the Australian Government's Physical Activity recommendations.

Outcome C

In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of an innovative, prosperous region that has established a diverse 'clean' economy and has a wide choice in jobs and lifestyles.



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides data on employment for Canberra and the region. The 2006 Census showed an increase in employment and jobs growth in Canberra and Queanbeyan of 24,400 (in 2001 there were 171,000 jobs and in 2006 there were 195,400 jobs). This growth was predominantly in the public sector³⁶.

The 2.5% per annum called up in the indicator reflects trends in population growth and encompasses total growth in the public and private sector, not just in the ACT but across the National Capital Region.

While this Strategy reinforces the importance of the 'clean' economy it is difficult to define what broader sectors are likely to be associated with this. Using the knowledge/research sectors as an indicator reflects Canberra's economic base and it is these which will likely drive a 'clean' economy. The ABS Labour Force survey breaks down jobs by sector allowing reporting to be aggregated on the knowledge sectors.

Post-secondary qualifications are held by 79.3% of the population; 11 % of the population was employed in trade or technician positions, and 62.9% was employed in professional or managerial positions. Of people aged 15 to 24, 6.1% were neither employed nor involved in higher education, although this represented a drop of nearly 2% from the previous census.

Indicators

There is sustained growth in employment in the ACT and across the region with an increasing proportion of jobs in the private sector.

An increasing number of jobs in the ACT and region are in the knowledge economy sectors, including businesses orientated towards 'clean tech' and environmental sustainability.

An increasing proportion of the population has post-secondary education in the ACT and across the region.



Outcome D

In 2030 Canberra will be the 'capital in the bush', recognised for the quality of its public places and buildings that reflect its unique climate, character and identity.

Indicators

An increasing number of recognised, exemplar developments with integrated public realm spaces, roads and/or buildings in Canberra.

The environmental sustainability and quality of design and construction is increased, with a growing proportion of new and existing public and commercial buildings achieving 6 star Greenstar or equivalent.

The number of tourists visiting Canberra and the region continues to increase each year, with tourist spending increasing its contribution to Gross Territory Product.

Canberra is recognised internationally as a planned city. Within the Parliamentary Zone there are many buildings and precincts that are recognised nationally for their design excellence. It is important to foster a culture that 'design counts' across Canberra. Recognition by peers at a national level in the design and development industry is important to demonstrate and recognise leadership.

Similarly, governments and industry are recognising the value of programs that measure and reward the environmental performance and sustainability of buildings. These programs are more established in the commercial sector where it is easier to monitor 'whole of life' costs. The intent of this outcome is to develop a culture of innovation, using industry programs and rating systems to help build recognition by peers.

Most of Canberra's attractions are associated with its planning, the design quality of its buildings, and landscapes. The region is renown for its food and wine. The regional tourism profile from 2010–11 shows what activities people are engaged in, how long they are staying and their expenditure.

Outcome E

In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of a region that demonstrates the benefits of good stewardship of the land, its resources and the beauty of the rivers, mountains and plains.



The approach taken to calculate land take per person is the metropolitan area divided by population. The inclusion of parks, playing fields and roads are usually considered essential given these lands perform essential functions for the community. Lands such as National Parks and landscape protection areas are usually excluded. The land take per 1000 people for the ACT in June 2011 was 480Ha (excluding rural land, hills, ridges and buffers, river corridors and mountains of 167Ha per 1000).

The ACT Natural Resource Management Plan (NRM Plan) proposes monitoring of community involvement in NRM activities and ESDD will work with NRM to develop a data base.

Indicators

Land take per person in the ACT continues to reduce from 480 ha per thousand people.

Involvement in natural resource management activities per person increases annually.



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a large, well-maintained vineyard with rows of green grapevines stretches across a hillside. To the left of the vineyard, there is a small pond. In the middle ground, there are several clusters of trees, including tall, thin cypresses, and a few small buildings. The background features a wide, flat field of golden-brown crops, possibly wheat, leading up to a range of rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

List of current ACT Government documents relevant to the Strategy

The Canberra Plan – Towards Our Second Century, 2008

Updates the original 2004 Canberra Plan with a renewed vision; looks at new challenges like climate change, water security and housing affordability. <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/canberraplan>

Measuring Our Progress is the online report card on life in Canberra.

<http://www.measuringourprogress.act.gov.au/>

The Canberra Social Plan, 2011

Has the vision that Canberra is a place where all people reach their potential, make a contribution and share the benefits of an inclusive community. It is based on the themes of connection, belonging and collaboration.

<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/socialplan>

People, Place, Prosperity – a sustainability policy, 2009

To pursue sustainability across all policies and programs. <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/sustainability>

A Triple Bottom Line pilot program applies the Assessment Framework, 2011 to selected major policy proposals and a finalised approach is anticipated by end-June 2012.

ACT Government Infrastructure Plan, 2011

The second Infrastructure Plan was released in July 2011. Building on the first infrastructure plan, it sets out strategic infrastructure priorities from 2011-2021.

<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/infrastructure>

Weathering the Change - the ACT Climate Change Strategy, 2007

Actions to address climate change adaptation and mitigation with greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Action Plan 2, to be completed in 2012, outlines five different pathways to reduce our emissions by 40% of 1990 levels by 2020.

Capital Development: Towards our Second Century, 2008

The ACT Government's economic strategy to build a stronger, more dynamic and sustainable ACT economy.

<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/economic>

To be supplemented by the Business Development Strategy, May 2012

Evaluation Policy and Guideline, December 2010

Guidance on how to evaluate policies and programs to improve performance and accountability.

http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/175432/ACT-Evaluation-Policy-Guidelines.pdf

Transport for Canberra, March 2012

Prepared in conjunction with the ACT Planning Strategy so important relationships between land use and transport support a shift to more sustainable transport and a more sustainable city.

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/transport_and_planning/transport_for_canberra

Growth, Diversification and Jobs: A Business Development Strategy, April 2012

A framework for a more diverse and sustainable economy for the ACT.

APPENDIX 2 NATIONAL CAPITAL PLAN EXCERPT - PRINCIPLES

Relevant Principles extracted from the National Capital Plan – December 2011 version

3.2 Principles for Office Employment Location

Canberra's distinctive urban structure that builds on the legacy of Griffin and Voorhees is of national significance. Within the broad land use policies and other Commonwealth policies, decisions on the location of employment in Canberra and the Territory should enhance rather detract from the City's role as the National Capital.

Decisions should have regard to the transportation and environmental impacts of all major office employment location proposals. They should also recognise the market demand for small and medium scale offices for the private sector in the commercial areas of Town, Group and Local Centres and in other defined office locations.

4.3 Principles for Urban Areas

- 1) Canberra's future growth is to be accommodated by continuing the development of distinct and relatively self-contained towns.
- 2) A hierarchy of centres will be maintained, with each town having a centre acting as a focal point for higher order retail functions, commercial services, offices and community facilities.
- 3) Industrial estates will continue to be located on the edge of the urban areas in locations which conveniently serve the workforce of the towns and have good accessibility for long-distance freight movements.

4.5.4.1 Principles for Civic

Civic's continued development should recognise its metropolitan significance and role, achieve a satisfactory relationship between Civic and other development and features of the central area, and meet the following Principles:

- a) Future development and redevelopment in Civic should aim both to reinforce Civic's role as the prime metropolitan centre, and contribute to a diverse, lively and attractive character.
- b) The design of buildings and the amenity and environmental quality of the main public spaces should result in an accessible, attractive, high quality and distinctive centre consistent with Civic's role as the major metropolitan centre and its location at one point of the National Triangle, Griffin's major organising element of the Central National Area.

6.2 Principle for Transport

Transport planning and provision will:

- 1) Reserve a route for the development of a public transport service to link major employment nodes. As far as practicable the service will be segregated from other transport systems and will operate with priority of right-of-way
- 2) Incorporate nationally recognised practices and standards consistent with the role and function of each road, or additional standards set out for the Designated Areas of its plan.

7.2 Principles for Urban Design

- 1) The National Capital role requires that planning and development in Canberra Central in particular and generally throughout the Territory, should have a high aesthetic and environmental quality. Planning controls should seek to ensure that development in all forms, including landscaping in urban and non-urban areas, complements and enriches its surrounding.
- 2) Substantial works of architecture, engineering and landscape within Canberra Central should be designed to contribute positively to the overall composition and symbolism and dignity of the National Capital.

8.2 Principle for the National Capital Open Space System

The National Capital Open Space System (NCOSS) is required to protect the nationally significant open space framework, visual backdrop and landscape setting for the National Capital. NCOSS will blend city and country in a way that symbolises the character of the National Capital and provides a balanced range of uses which reinforces the nature, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the ACT.

8.5.2 Principle for Hills, Ridges and Buffer Spaces

Hills, ridges and buffer spaces are to remain substantially undeveloped in order to protect the symbolic role and Australian landscape character of the hills and ridges as the scenic backdrop to the Parliamentary Zone, Civic and other National Capital precincts, to maintain the visual definition and physical containment of the surrounding towns and to ensure that their landscape, environmental and recreation values become an integral part of the National Capital.

8.6.2 Principle for River Corridors

To protect and enhance the environmental quality, landscape setting and the natural and cultural resources of the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo River Corridors. The Murrumbidgee River Corridor is to be conserved as an important national resource and a key open space element which provides a definable edge to the developed urban areas.

8.7.2 Principle for Mountains and Bushland

The Mountain and Bushland area is to be maintained as an important visual background to the National Capital; to protect both its nature conservation values and Canberra's existing and future water supply and to develop appropriate National Capital and tourist uses, particularly in the Tidbinbilla/Paddy's River Area.

9.2 Principle for Rural Areas

The rural areas of the ACT should be retained and utilised on a sustainable yield basis whilst providing a distinctive rural landscape setting for the National Capital.

10.2 Principle for Heritage

The Territory's natural and cultural heritage should be identified, preserved, protected and conserved in accordance with internationally accepted principles, and in order to enhance the character of Canberra and the Territory as the National Capital.

11.2 Principle for Environment

The environmental quality of the National Capital and the Territory should be maintained and improved.

12.2 Principle for Infrastructure

The public infrastructure of Canberra and the Territory shall be planned and provided in an integrated and timely manner to facilitate the continued development of the National Capital and ensure safety and security of supply and operation.

APPENDIX 3 ROLE AND SCOPE OF MASTER PLANS

The role of a master plan

A master plan is a high level plan that sets out outcomes, actions and urban design principles to guide and manage development and/or redevelopment in a particular area or centre. A master plan will be prepared for an area that is undergoing change, is identified for urban intensification or where land use changes will be significant to the improvement of that place.

Master plans help to define what is important about a place and how its character and quality can be enhanced. They are important to providing a link between broader strategic policy and its application to a particular area. These plans analyse and consider current constraints and opportunities as well as try to address anticipated future challenges.

From time to time a master plan may be reviewed. This is to ensure its continued currency and appropriateness in guiding and managing change.

As a high level plan, a master plan does not provide detailed designs. For example, a master plan will note the need for more shade and may recommend how this can be provided.

Master plans are not statutory documents but they can inform changes to the Territory Plan and make recommendations for land release and capital works.

Preparation of a master plan

The ESDD is responsible for preparing master plans and the periodic review of plans.

Other government directorates (agencies) sometimes prepare plans, but they are typically development plans for specific sites or confined locations.

The community, business owners and lessees are engaged throughout the process of preparing a master plan. This is to ensure local issues and community values are incorporated at the beginning of the process. Community views can sometimes conflict with each other or sometimes raise issues that are not appropriately dealt with by a master plan, such as the maintenance of a centre. Master plans aim to achieve a balance between all the views expressed during the consultation process.

Consultation with other government agencies is also undertaken, to ensure an integrated approach to development. Advice is sought from specialist consultants on matters such as traffic, parking, transport, economic viability, urban design, social planning and heritage, and this information is included during consultation and used to assist in working through options and recommendations.

A draft master plan with outcomes, design principles along with specific recommendations is prepared. This draft is presented to the community and stakeholders for comment and then revised to try to take account of this feedback. It is then presented to government for endorsement. The final master plan is then released.

Scope of a Master plan

The following is a list of issues and factors which are generally considered in the preparation of a master plan.

Accessibility

- Active travel: mapping existing walking and cycle path networks, including length, disruptions and quality of the experience i.e. shaded, safe.
- Parking: existing supply and demand, projected parking required.
- Public transport: current service levels; location of stops, layovers, interchanges and termini; changes proposed under Transport for Canberra.
- Roads: existing road network and capacity.

Biophysical factors

- Micro climate: sun, shade, prevailing winds, average, maximum and minimum temperatures, likely impacts of climate change.
- Flora and fauna: ecological communities and species present (native and other), connectivity potential, interface between native vegetation and urban areas, management issues.
- Landscape: character and views, connection to views, special features of that site.
- Natural hazards: consideration of fire, flood, storm and drought.
- Soils: types and depths and appropriate uses.
- Water: location and condition of all natural or constructed water bodies and their hydrological connections (above and below ground surface).

Economic factors

- Business activity: existing commercial operations, projected commercial operations i.e. supermarkets, speciality retail, office, food production, showroom, light industry etc.
- ACT Supermarket Competition Policy (and other relevant policies): effects on business development and operation.
- Employment: extent of current employment, capacity for employment generation.
- Mixed uses: identification of mixed use development opportunities.
- Land supply: amounts of land zoned for different purposes under the Territory Plan and projected needs.
- Ownership: property tenure and leasing matters.
- Usage and function: levels of patronage, relationship to other centres, role of competition.

Utilities and infrastructure

- Capacity: assessment of existing capacity or lack of, with utilities infrastructure (electricity, gas, water, sewer, stormwater, telecommunications).
- Upgrading: coordination and sequencing of recommended works.
- Green infrastructure: opportunities for localised power generation, Water Sensitive Urban Design and other innovative approaches to reducing impacts or enhancing the environmental benefits of infrastructure.
- Roads: current and future street hierarchy, traffic demand and management, parking generation.
- Site boundaries: definition of site boundaries and reasons behind selection.
- History: general description of the place and overview of relevant site history.
- SWOT analysis: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (constraints) present.

Social factors

- Character: character of built form, i.e. age, construction style and materials, street width, building heights, identification of community likes and dislikes of existing character.
- Community facilities: audit of existing facilities including halls, libraries, sporting facilities, meeting spaces, gardens, health services, emergency services; along with identification of future needs and possible locations to meet them.
- Heritage: presence of Indigenous and European heritage and management needs arising.
- Housing: level and types of housing and projected capacity.

- Parks: types, extent and quality of existing parks i.e. small pocket park, large children's playground, semi natural bush, opportunity for new parks (in light of any projected population growth), access pathways.
- Population: existing and projected demography, with particular attention to the aim of creating centres that cater to all ages and abilities.
- Stakeholders: identification of stakeholder groups and any other significant demographic groups.

Implementation

Once a master plan is endorsed by government it is implemented in a variety of ways. These are summarised below.

Territory Plan variation	For many centres a variation to the Territory Plan will be necessary to be able to make the changes shown in the master plan. In many instances a precinct code with specific details relating to the centre will be introduced into the Territory Plan. The precinct code will provide the opportunity for the building heights, orientation, setbacks and land uses outlined in the master plan to be realised as blocks are redeveloped.
Sale of territory owned land	Some Territory owned land may be identified as appropriate for land sale or redevelopment. Other government directorates are responsible for this.
Capital works	Infrastructure and public place improvements may be required. This will involve various government agencies, and funding through future government budgets.
Industry opportunities	It is up to the business community to take advantage of opportunities identified within a master plan, to invest and help meet the community's needs. Often many of the changes recommended in a master plan are on already developed sites, therefore a plan is likely to take a number of years to be realised.

The community can be involved during implementation, either through consultation on changes to the Territory Plan or notification of development applications.

Summary of actions pertaining to master plans that are in this Strategy

Strategy 1

- Prepare a plan for City that articulates the vision, aspirations and the desired urban amenity for Canberra's pre-eminent centre. This plan is to align many initiatives and the intent of the National Capital Authority's Griffin Legacy.
- Review the Woden Master Plan and prepare a master plan for Mawson group centre, inclusive of Athllon Drive corridor.
- Review the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan and extend this review to capture the synergies for transport, land use, open space and infrastructure planning with development on the University of Canberra campus and adjacent Lake Ginninderra.

Both of these reviews are to update the existing master plans and ensure their currency in light of recent and proposed initiatives.

- Develop more detailed plans and policies to facilitate urban intensification along Northbourne Avenue from City to Dickson. This is a priority to support key public transport initiatives.
- Extend the program of master plans for centres and transit ways, after the completion of the current program and following the Strategy's five year review.

ACT PLANNING STRATEGY

Strategy 2

- Use the master plan process to provide the analysis and direction to:
 - revise the car parking requirements in the Territory Plan codes and land use zones, to better reflect the needs of different types of places and the changing demands for car parking. This will progressively implement the Transport for Canberra Strategic Parking Framework
 - develop ‘walking plans’ to ensure there is a network that covers and links the residential areas to centres, public spaces and public transport routes.
- Prepare master plans for other key transport corridors to provide redevelopment guidance and facilitate an efficient, more sustainable public transport system on the inter-town routes.

Strategy 3

- Use the master plan process to identify key sites and opportunities for the ACT Government to partner with industry to develop exemplars and catalyst projects in areas for urban intensification.

Strategy 4

- Identify mixed use sites in town, group and local centres (through the master plan process) to support the viability and vibrancy of centres.

Strategy 5

- Use the master plan process to identify an integrated approach to the development, renewal and management of the public realm – the urban squares, parks, streets and reserves

Strategy 6

- Endorsed master plans to be given greater policy status to inform capital works bids and decisions on key development proposals

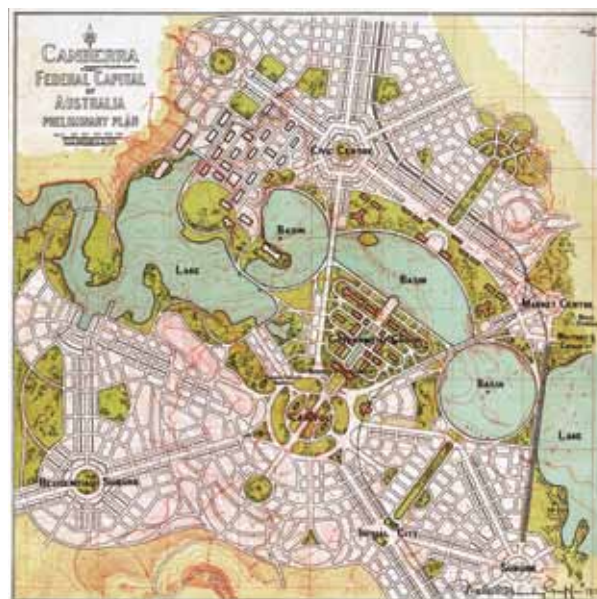
Master plans recently completed or underway

- Erindale Group Centre
- Dickson Group Centre
- Gungahlin Town Centre
- Hall Rural Village (develop Precinct Code from 2002 Master Plan)
- Kambah Group Centre
- Kingston Group Centre
- Oaks Estate Rural Village
- Pialligo Rural Village
- Tuggeranong Town Centre
- Weston Group Centre (Cooleman Court)

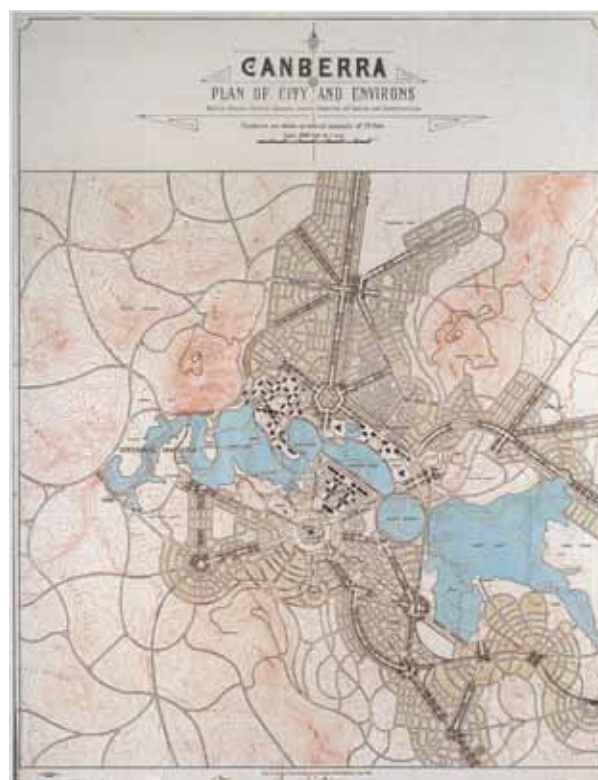
APPENDIX 4 HISTORIC PLANS



Commonwealth of Australia Federal Capital Competition: City and Environs 1912 Competition Plan, Walter Burley Griffin



1913 Preliminary Plan, Walter Burley Griffin

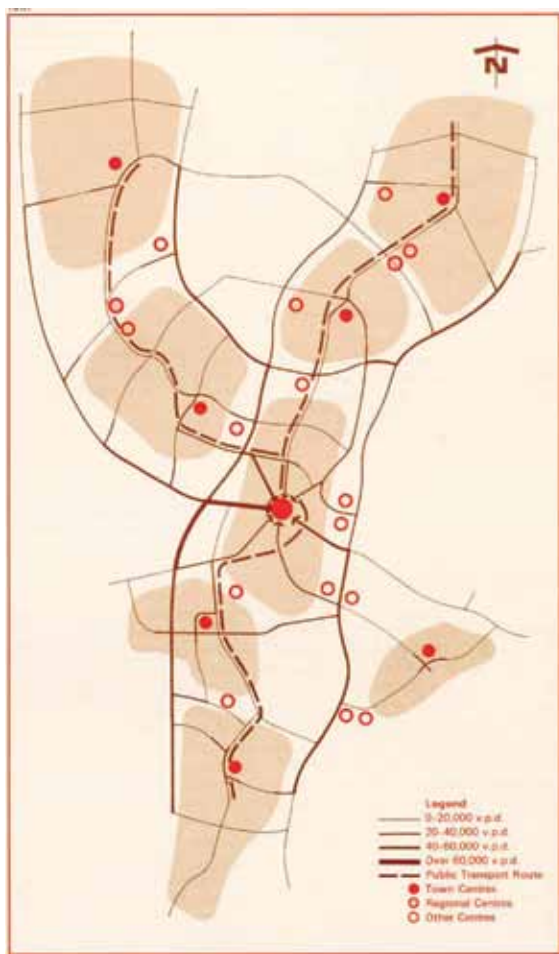


1918 City and Environs Plan, Walter Burley Griffin



1925 Commonwealth Gazetted Plan

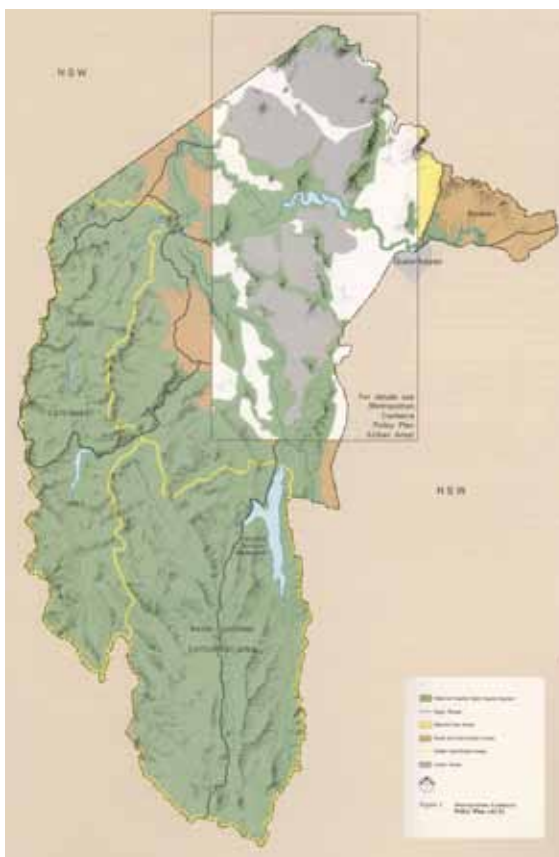
ACT PLANNING STRATEGY



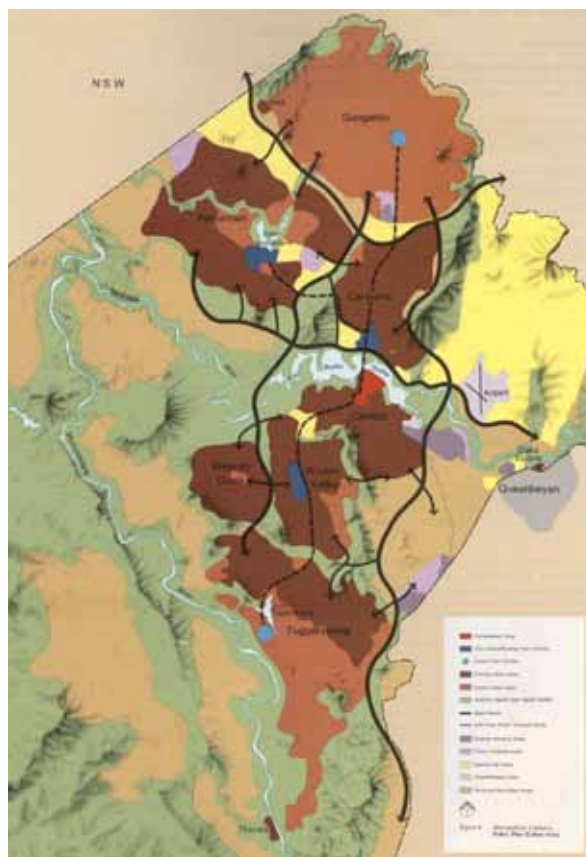
Y-Plan 1970, NCDC



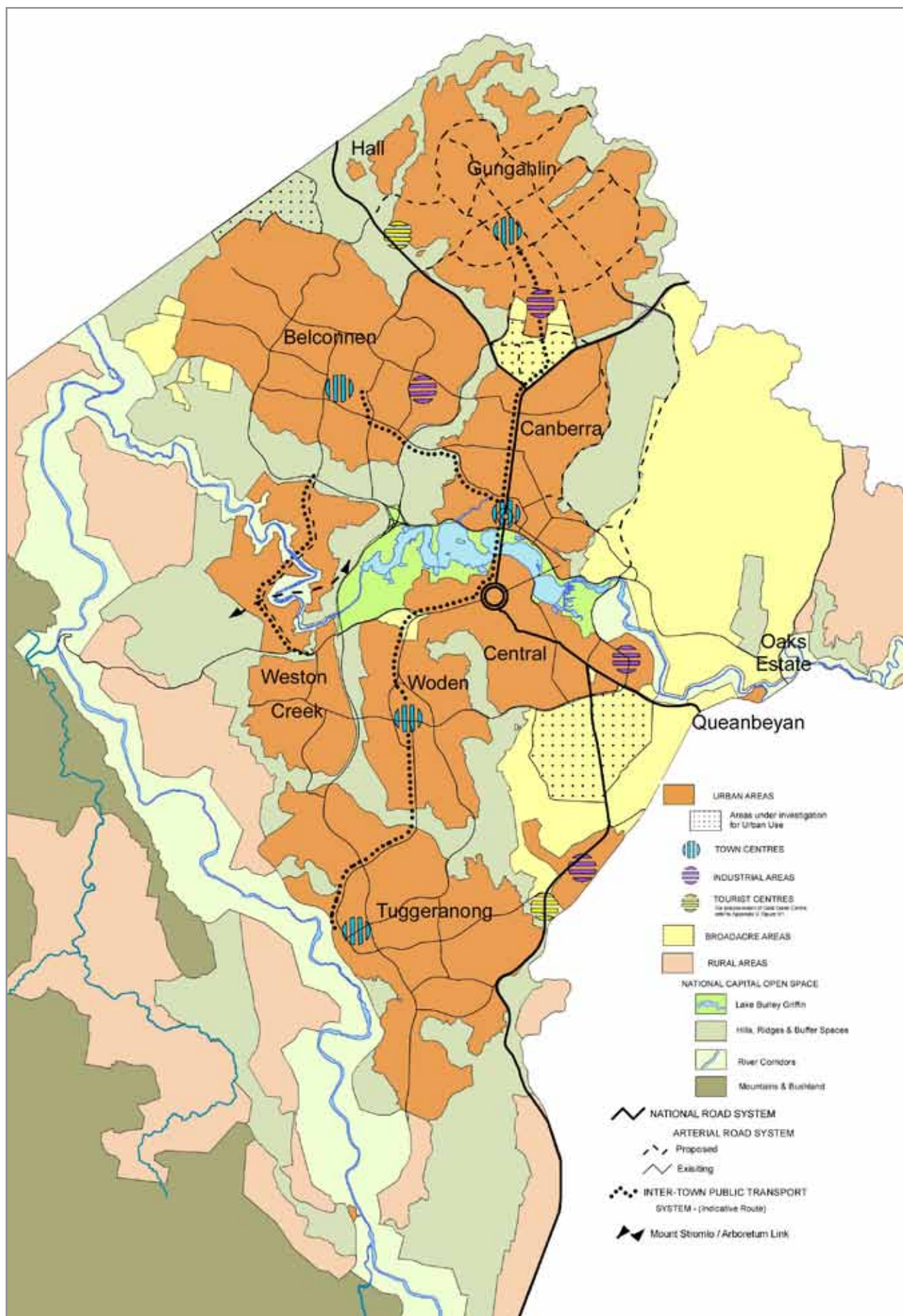
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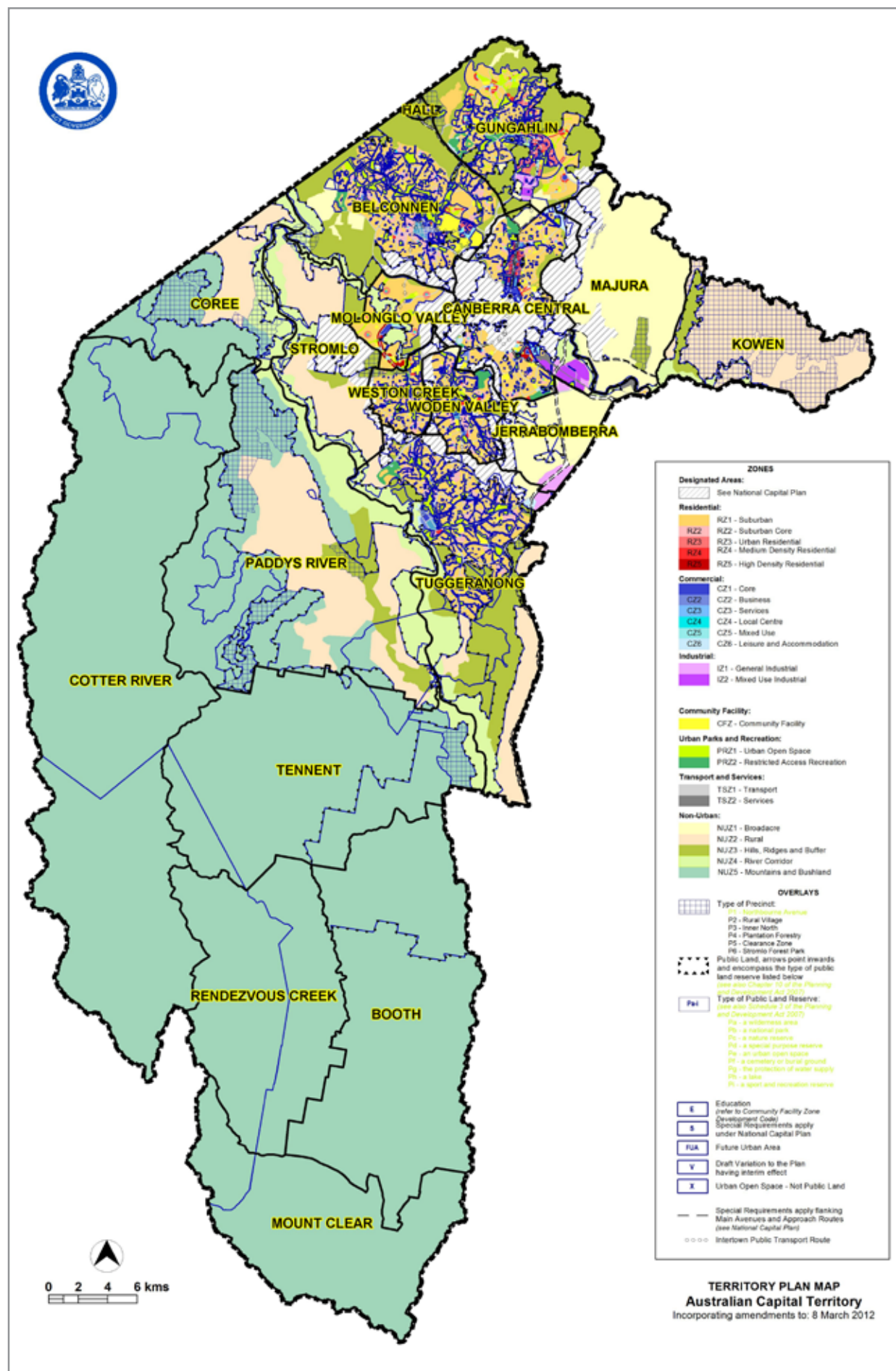
Metropolitan Policy Plan 1984, NCDC



Metropolitan Policy Plan 1984 [inset], NCDC



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APPENDIX 5 END NOTES

References (end notes) throughout the Strategy are listed by number in order of occurrence

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