



CRUELTY ISN'T SPORT

Transitioning Canberra's Greyhound Racing Industry

The Greens have a plan to transition the ACT's greyhound industry

The greyhound racing industry in the ACT is small, exploitative and expensive. We need a plan to wind down this exploitative industry – by focusing on the welfare of the dogs and supporting the ACT workers to transition.

The greyhound industry in the ACT is small, exploitative and expensive, and the Greens have long called for an end to it. The ACT greyhound industry is regulated by Greyhound Racing NSW, so when Mike Baird called for an end to dog racing in NSW, we were well positioned to echo the call here.

Now that the ACT is committed to winding down this exploitive industry by July 2017, we need a transition plan that focuses on the welfare of the greyhounds – and those involved in the industry.

> Ending Industry Subsidies

The ACT Government spends over \$1 million each year on subsidies to the local greyhound racing industry for little return to the ACT. With the Government's agreement with the industry due to expire in June 2017, we want to see these annual subsidies redirected into new opportunities, helping dogs be re-homed, and offering support to workers and owners to transition as the industry is closed down.

> Caring for Greyhounds

The ACT Greens would use savings from the annual subsidy to establish a rehoming scheme for dogs, which would incorporate funding for 1-2 years for the existing rescue organisations – Greyhound Rescue ACT and ACT Rescue and Foster.

Our greyhound care package will also include:

- » practical support including food for foster carers
- » free desexing
- » waivers for dog ownership costs such as registration fees
- » payments to vets for initial vet checks and treatments
- » free vaccinations and microchips for the greyhounds
- » removing requirements for muzzling, which makes the dogs less attractive to potential carers.

> Transitioning Workers

The ACT Greens want to support ACT dog racing owners, trainers and others in the industry to be retrained for work in other industries through CIT subsidies and business support for new opportunities.

> Repurposing the Racetrack

The ACT Greens want to retain the racetrack site for community use, and will consult with the community about its future.



OUR CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Transitioning from Gas to Clean Energy

The Greens have a plan for a carbon neutral Canberra

The ACT Greens have an ambitious plan for a carbon neutral Canberra and zero net emissions by 2030, 100% renewable energy by 2020, and a transition from gas to clean energy.

The ACT's clean energy targets are leading the nation, and the ACT Greens are committed to achieving 100% clean energy electricity by 2020 and zero net emissions by 2030. However, to get there, we must shift away from using gas to heat our homes and hot water as we build new suburbs.

The burning of gas contributes 376,000 tonnes of CO₂, and is the third largest contributor of emissions after electricity use and transport fuels. Gas emissions increased by nearly 7% between 2014 and 2015.

The good news is that electrical appliances are so much more efficient than they once were, and with the rise in gas prices, much more cost effective.

And, by 2020, electricity in the ACT will be 100% renewable.

Building gas infrastructure in new suburbs is a costly and unnecessary exercise, and will mean that all gas consumers across the city will pay for the installation and maintenance of the new network through higher network prices.

Many Canberrans are already locked into gas heating and appliances across the city. The Greens want to ensure that households are supported to transition away from expensive and polluting gas as electricity becomes cheaper and cleaner. We also want to make sure that low income households receive the support they need to upgrade to electric heating, as they should not bear a disproportionate burden in the transition to a clean energy future.

That means committing to no new gas infrastructure in new suburbs, and providing incentives for households to shift away from gas in existing dwellings if they choose to.

That's why the ACT Greens will invest \$15 million over 4 years to:

- » Stop the rollout of expensive new gas infrastructure in all new suburbs;
- » Remove all ACT Government incentives that encourage householders to install gas appliances (for example, through the EEIS and wood heater replacement program);
- » Set a minimum gas standard of 5 stars for all new gas appliance installations;
- » Mandate that replacement hot water systems must not be gas; and
- » Change the Building Code of Australia requirements to prohibit gas hot water services in new houses.

The ACT Greens will also encourage households to transition away from gas by:

- » Providing a 20% rebate on up to \$10,000 spent upgrading gas appliances to energy-efficient electric appliances, such as split system heating systems and efficient hot water systems (solar or heat pump) for households earning less than \$100,000 per annum; and
- » Replacing gas heating appliances with energy efficient electric heating for those in low-income households.



KEEPING CANBERRA GREEN

Enhancing Our Bush Capital

The Greens will keep our city green and liveable

The ACT Greens believe we must protect our environment and provide opportunities for everyone to connect with Canberra's beautiful natural places

Canberrans are proud of our beautiful bush capital. As our city grows, we not only need to invest in convenient, fast public transport so we can get around the city; but we must protect our environment and provide opportunities for everyone to connect with Canberra's beautiful natural places.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Invest \$16.8 million in planting an additional 7,000 new trees each year to address the heat island effect over and above current tree replacement program
- » Establish a tree canopy target of at least 40% summer shade on Canberra streets
- » Invest \$20 million to improve waterways and urban lakes and support roof top gardens
- » Invest approximately \$7million in two new Community Irrigated Recreation Parks (CRIP) in West Belconnen and one in the south of Canberra
- » Invest \$300,000 per year to employ community co-ordinators to support volunteers in urban areas such as Park Care, Water Watch, and community garden volunteers
- » Promote local food production including community gardens and better use of verges, and increase funding for community grants program.

» Thousands of New Trees

Trees don't only make our city a more pleasant place to live, they also help cool our city in summer by reducing the 'heat island effect' that buildings and paved surfaces create. To keep our city green and liveable, the ACT Greens will:

- » Invest an additional \$5.6 million annually to plant and maintain approximately 7,000 additional new trees each year;
- » Establish a canopy target of at least 40% summer shade in all Canberra streets, with priority on treeless streets in town centre and suburbs with small blocks and narrow streets;
- » Review tree standards so that species we plant today are adapted to a hotter drier climate; and
- » Require light-coloured roofs and pavements to reduce the heat island effect across the city and conduct trials on lighter coloured roads.

» Better Water Management

Our green spaces are coming under more pressure as our population grows. The ACT Greens have a plan to use water efficiently and well to keep our city green, sustainably.

The ACT Greens will invest \$20 million to:

- » Construct and maintain wetlands and ponds along key water courses - for example Yarralumla Creek in Woden. This will help reduce runoff and improve water quality and improve the health of our lakes and waterways;
- » Provide higher level of maintenance and irrigation for high use parks in group and town centres and near higher density developments;
- » Promote co-investment arrangements for the development and upgrade of parks with developers and local businesses;
- » Establish a Ministerial Water Forum to help develop Canberra as a centre of excellence for Water Sensitive Urban Design in collaboration with experts and industry bodies such as the Landscape Architects Institute, Urban Planners and academics. The Forum would promote information sharing, peer review of standards and guide policy development.
- » Provide incentives for excellence in Water Sensitive Urban Design, such as for developers credits based on expert review.

> Better Community Facilities

People in our city are often disappointed with the outcomes of new developments and the impact on our public spaces. Too often developments are established without the community in mind.

The ACT Greens believe that our city should serve the community. That means pedestrian scale, active street frontage in our city and town centres with sunny plazas and good cycling links. We want to see lively streets with sunshine and foliage, and active reuse of older buildings to retain character and sense of place.

We want diverse dwellings of different sizes and types in our town centres that are able to cater for the different stages of people's lives – young families, down-sizers as well as young couples and singles trying to get a foothold in the market.

We should have public, open space areas surrounded by high density residential developments so that people can easily use and enjoy them.

The ACT Greens will invest \$8.5 million to:

- » Develop public domain strategies for key public spaces, particularly those subject to significant development pressure.
- » Ensure that the Planning Authority require that individual developments are consistent with a public domain strategy and local centre Master Plans
- » Establish a peer review panel in consultation with the Institute of Landscape Architects to provide rigorous assessment by professional landscape architects and planners.
- » Fund the development of two Community Recreation Irrigated Parks in existing suburbs (one in western Belconnen and one in the south of Canberra).

Development should contribute to our public spaces - not take away from it. That's why the Greens will ensure that individual developments are consistent with a public domain strategy that could include things like including verges with paving, bike racks, street furniture and canopy.

> More Community Coordinators

All over our city, hundreds of volunteers commit time and skills to managing our parks, waterways and community gardens. The ACT Greens will support and build on this work by:

- » Invest \$300,000 every year employing two additional Community Co-ordinators to assist volunteers in management of our urban spaces and community gardens.

> Support for Local Food Production

To plan for the future challenges of global warming and peak oil, the ACT must take steps toward greater self-sufficiency by increasing local food production. The Greens want to encourage more people to grow and share fresh food, building on Canberra's strong tradition of community gardening.

The ACT Greens will support local food production by allowing community groups to grow food on underutilized open space areas, building on the experience of the City Farm and Lyneham Commons. This will include:

- » Increasing funding for the Community Gardens Grants by \$50, 000 each year;
- Invest \$100,000 to launch a local CBR food label and marketing campaign;
- » Reserving appropriate agricultural areas for food production in our planning framework;
- » Expanding the role of Volunteer Coordinators to include providing additional support for community gardens;
- » Implementation of the Guide for Residential Nature Strips to assist in small scale food production as a priority.



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Keeping Canberra Beautiful

The Greens will invest \$15.5 million to protect our environment

The Greens understand that the protection of water, air and biodiversity is essential for the well being of the planet, and all of us.

Canberrans are proud of our beautiful bush capital. As our city grows, we not only need to invest in convenient, fast public transport so we can get around the city; but we must protect our environment and provide opportunities for everyone to connect with Canberra's beautiful natural places.

The Greens understand that the protection of water, air and biodiversity is essential for the well being of the planet, and all of us. Degradation of catchments and global warming are impacting on the quality and amount of available water. And habitat loss caused by humans, and the spread of invasive species, are major threats to biodiversity.

The Greens believe that current generations have a responsibility to ensure that the environment is protected for future generations. That's why this election the Greens have a plan to preserve our natural environment, and to continue to protect and promote natural spaces in our town centres and urban spaces.

WATER

> An office for water

The ACT Greens will establish an Office of Water to manage all aspects of the water cycle. Right now the management of water is disjointed, with different agencies responsible for different aspects of the water cycle.

That's why the Greens will establish an Office of Water which will be informed by an independent panel of experts including scientists, industry, community land carers, agriculturalists and Government.

It will work closely with ICON Water to co-ordinate all aspects of managing the water cycle including:

- » Potable water supply and charging;
- » Sewage;
- » Stormwater and groundwater;
- » Maintenance of Water Sensitive Urban Design features and green infrastructure such as tree pits, swales, ponds and wetlands;
- » Monitoring water quality and compliance regarding pollution;
- » Environmental flows;
- » Ecological management of water dependent ecosystems;
- » Standards for recreational use of lakes and waterways; and
- » Planning and development controls as they impact on water.

Integrating all aspects of water management would ensure that the design and construction of water infrastructure, including stormwater, will be done with ongoing maintenance in mind, and with the day to day maintenance properly funded.

BIODIVERSITY

> Funding to tackle weeds and pests

Biodiversity conservation is an important issue for the community, both now and for future generations. Weeds and pest animals not only damage the ACT's biodiversity, but they increase the risk of wildfires and water erosion. And, the thing with weeds, is that you either need to do it properly or not at all. In the past we have seen the government give short term funding that has dried up and allowed pests to re-establish themselves.

The Greens want to see an end to this short term thinking that is costing both our budget and our environment. The ACT Greens will:

- » Commit \$2 million per year in recurrent funding to ongoing weed and pest control. This will include targeting specific weeds, like African Lovegrass which poses a threat to biodiversity and agricultural productivity and increases fire risk.

> Strategic conservation planning

The ACT is renowned for being the bush capital, but in practice, we have many isolated hilltops in reserves that are not connected and are not always strategically managed for biodiversity conservation.

We must revegetate our hilltops and riparian zones to create stronger biodiversity links. The ACT Greens will empower the newly created single conservation agency by funding additional staff and research capacity. This will help undertake strategic conservation planning and management, across the ACT and within the region in collaboration with NSW agencies and local governments.

This will include:

- » Identifying and actively managing biodiversity linkages and corridors to build resilience and help adapt to a changing climate;

- » Determining and managing buffer zones for key species, including predators such as the Little Eagle;
- » Protecting mature and hollow bearing trees in agricultural and urban areas;
- » Directing changed management practices, including strategic mowing in key areas such as urban parks to allow natural regeneration (balanced with the need for bushfire management);
- » When trees do need to be removed, identifying opportunities to relocate for habitat enhancement (or in parks for nature play);
- » Undertaking monitoring of the effectiveness of offsets to ensure net biodiversity gain;
- » Building relationships with universities to undertake research aspects of this work and provide funding support for scholarships; and
- » Working with landholders to create the right incentives for habitat creation on privately leased land.

> Funding rangers and volunteers

We all know how much work it takes to protect and conserve our biodiversity and water resources. The Greens value the work that Natural Resource Managers, Park Rangers and volunteers all do to care for our environment.

As a community-based party that is powered by volunteers, we also understand that it takes time, effort and skill to manage volunteers effectively.

That's why the ACT Greens are committed to:

- » Employing two additional full time rangers, one of which is a designated role for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employee for on-ground biodiversity management in the ACT reserve system; and
- » Employing an additional volunteer coordinator for Waterwatch, Landcare and Park Care groups.

> Enforcing cat containment

Cats have a major impact on native wildlife in our suburbs and in our nature reserves. While cat containment areas have been declared in new suburbs, better enforcement is required and research undertaken into the effectiveness of cat containment.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Continue to ensure that cat containment areas are established in all new suburbs, and those adjacent to key nature reserves, for example Jerrabomberra Wetlands;
- » Increase the level of enforcement to ensure compliance in existing cat containment areas;
- » Research to assess the effectiveness of cat containment areas in reducing impacts on wildlife; and
- » Undertake detailed feasibility of cat registration and microchipping as occurs in other jurisdictions.

> Appoint an eco-tourism manager

The ACT is a fantastic place for nature based tourism. Tidbinbilla in the south, Jerrabomberra Wetlands in central Canberra and Mulligans Flat in the north. These are great resources that could be enhanced for increased tourism opportunities.

The ACT Greens will provide planning support and other in-kind support and promotion for privately funded facilities such as:

- » A visitor centre and cafe in Mulligans Flat
- » Investigating the feasibility of accommodation in Tidbinbilla, Mulligans Flat, and the Arboretum
- » A visitor centre at Jerrabomberra Wetlands

> Establishing a Ginninderra Falls national park

The expansion of Canberra's urban footprint with the Riverview development to the west of Belconnen and across the NSW border raises a number of challenges. There will be administrative issues around service provision and rates collection.

There will also be environmental issues, with areas of biodiversity conservation and recreation significance lying within NSW including the Ginninderra Falls.

The ACT Greens will fight to move the ACT boundary to include the area of the proposed riverview development, using more natural boundaries of the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek. This would therefore include access to the Ginninderra Falls within the ACT which would be protected as part of a National Park.

The ACT could also play a more direct role in protecting and managing areas containing regionally significant species such as the Scarlet Robin, Rosenberg's Goanna and the Little Eagle that are currently within NSW.

> Lower Grassy Woodlands national park

The ACT Greens will undertake a detailed feasibility study into the establishment of a new National Park to conserve and showcase Lowland Grassy Woodlands potentially including Kinlyside, Mulligans Flat, Goorooyarroo, Mt Majura, Mt Ainslie, Mt Pleasant, Mt Mugga Mugga, Callum Brae and Isaacs Ridge.

WASTE

> Reducing waste in the ACT

The ACT Greens want to see the ACT restate its claim as the national leader in waste management by reducing the generation of waste and the amount of waste that goes into landfill.

The ACT Government is currently conducting a Waste Feasibility Study that has identified multiple categories of existing materials. Many of these waste streams are going to waste that could be recycled.

The ACT Greens will

- » Invest in establishing a nation leading recycling and innovation technology park, building on existing infrastructure at Hume.

The waste recycling park would form the basis for new and exciting recycling industries that will receive waste streams, then develop, recycle and repurpose new, marketable products.

> **Ban Polystyrene packaging**

Polystyrene is a harmful material for our environment. Production of polystyrene requires significant energy use and is produced using non-renewable resources. Polystyrene is also a non-degradable material and it contributes greatly to landfill, litter and has impacts on wildlife.

The ACT Greens believe that the banning of free lightweight, single use plastic shopping bags has been a success in the Territory.

To build on this work, the ACT Greens will:

- » Aim to ban all polystyrene packaging of goods, food and beverages, where those goods are packaged and/or served in the ACT; by
- » Undertaking a review of experience of polystyrene bans internationally such as in San Francisco and Miami, followed by consultation with local businesses about a phased introduction and helping them to source alternative recyclable products.

> **Support donation of food to charity and rescue organisations**

As much as 44 million tonnes of food is wasted in Australia on an annual basis. The ACT Greens believe that the Territory can be a leader in restricting food waste, while simultaneously supporting vulnerable groups.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Provide incentives and funding support to local food organisations to work with supermarkets so that less of their unsold edible foods are thrown out and ending in landfill; and

- » Support local food organisations who operate in the ACT, through a capital pool of funds of \$100,000 that could be used to purchase trucks, or food recycling bins, to support the donation of suitable unsold goods to rescue groups.

> **Organics processing plant for food waste**

Much of the ACT's existing food waste from homes and restaurants ends up in landfill. This situation is only expected to get worse as the proportion of people living in apartments increases.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Work with the private market to support a new processing plant for organic food waste,
- » Invest further in the Waste Feasibility Study to identify new marketable uses for the compost and methane gas produced from the processing plant including local agricultural uses;
- » Call for expressions of interest from companies who process food and other organic waste to establish the processing plant. The plant would be owned and operated by the private sector within the new Waster Recycling Technology Park at Hume; and
- » Once organic processing systems are in place the ACT Greens would ban organics from going to landfill.

> **More public recycling bins**

Canberrans are good at recycling when given the opportunity. The trials of recycling bins in public places, alongside general waste bins, have demonstrated good results in terms of people putting items into the right bin.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Fund an additional 100 double bins provided at local shops and town centres, phased in over 4 years.



Animal welfare

The ACT Greens believe that we must protect our ecosystem and native wildlife while also looking after domestic pets by tackling animal neglect and cruelty.

Canberrans, and visitors to our city, love our beautiful bush capital and the wildlife that it supports. Many Canberrans also have pets of their own who are important members of their families.

In the 20 years that we have been in the ACT Assembly, Greens MLAs have consistently fought for legal reform in animal welfare. We have achieved so much in this time. We have banned battery caged hens, puppy farms, hen debeaking, sow stalls, and we've improved egg labelling laws.

The ACT Greens believe that we must protect our ecosystem and the native wildlife that we're so lucky to have here in Canberra. We also need to look after domestic pets by tackling animal neglect and cruelty and implementing strong animal welfare laws.

Canberra is a progressive jurisdiction, and the Greens are proud to be at the forefront of animal rights reforms.

To help care for animals, our biodiversity and the natural environment, the ACT Greens will:

- » Implement a transition package for the end of Greyhound Racing in the ACT
- » Create a subsidised cat neutering scheme for low income earners; and
- » Invest in animal welfare services

> An end to greyhound racing in the ACT

Systemic, illegal activities have taken hold of the Greyhound Racing industry for far too long. The evidence from the recent report into the NSW Greyhound Racing industry that identified the slaughter of more than 60,000 dogs in NSW was shocking, and utterly deplorable.

While the ACT Greens welcome the decision to end Greyhound Racing in the Territory, we also acknowledge that there is a need to help transition workers into new industries and help support the welfare of the greyhounds that this ban will impact.

That's why the ACT Greens will invest \$1 million to:

- » Implement a greyhound racing transition package to support workers and owners to re-skill and to rehome dogs.

Subsidies currently provided to the ACT's greyhound industry will be redirected into a animal welfare rehoming scheme for former racing dogs. The dogs will also be vaccinated and microchipped for free. The package also includes funding for workers involved in the industry to retrain for employment in new industries.

> A cat neutering scheme for low income earners

Many Canberrans love their domestic pets - including cats. However, cats can pose a risk to our natural wildlife if they are able to enter the wild and breed.

Neutering of cats is the most humane, and proactive approach to ensure that cats don't enter into the wild to breed and risk destroying our natural environment. But, many people on low incomes find the costs prohibitive.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Implement a subsidised cat neutering scheme for those on low incomes; and
- » Undertake a feasibility study into cat registration and microchipping.

Eligible participants for the low income earner subsidy for cat neutering will provide proof of earnings and proof of residency to the ACT Government, who will facilitate appointment/operation times and prepare payments to participating veterinary surgeries in Canberra upon completion of the procedures.

> Investment in animal welfare services

There are a number of animal welfare services that need to be undertaken in our city. These include:

- » Animal welfare inspectorate
- » Dog pound (lost dogs, and impounded dogs)
- » Dog and cat kenneling, fostering and rehoming for abandoned domestic animals
- » Wildlife care

The ACT Greens believe that government has a responsibility to ensure that the community

organisations that undertake this work are able to continue to provide this important service.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Secure additional funding of \$1.75 million for animal welfare services and call for tenders for provision of specific services.



CLEAN ENERGY CANBERRA

Powering our city with clean energy.

Investing in affordable, clean energy for all Canberrans.

The ACT Greens believe that Canberrans should have the opportunity to benefit and invest in renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and be able to play an active role in reducing the ACT's greenhouse emissions.

The ACT Greens believe that all Canberrans should be able to live in comfortable houses that are cool in summer, warm in winter, and healthy for the occupants using tried and tested energy efficiency measures.

The Greens want to improve access to energy efficiency and renewable technologies to ensure that those on low incomes and who are renting can reap the benefits of new energy technologies. All Canberrans should have the opportunity to benefit and invest in renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and to play an active role in reducing the ACT's greenhouse emissions.

> Using our local electricity, efficiently

The energy landscape is changing and we need to move with the times. Gone are the days where only big energy companies can participate in the generation and delivery of energy to our homes and workplaces.

With solar PV and batteries, small business and householders can generate and utilise their energy at times of the day that suit them best, feeding excess energy into the grid or storing it or trading it locally. Local electricity trading will add so much more flexibility to people's energy use when they are able to generate electricity at one site, and then use it at another.

Imagine if your PV produces energy during the day and you could sell it to your neighbour who is at home all day, rather than buy a battery? Or if you own a small business and you could facilitate your car fleet recharging overnight at employees houses, but off the work account? Or swiping your card at the electric car charging station and using credit from your home PV?

Local electricity trading will also allow apartment dwellers, renters, low-income families and those with poorly oriented houses to invest in solar on a nearby community array, and have the electricity credited to their home accounts. This removes the obstacles to participating in the clean energy future, and facilitates investment in the local generation of energy. It comes with the added benefit of effectively utilising our electricity grid, and providing additional encouragement to utilise large roof spaces across the city for solar projects.

Local electricity trading would require changes to the way energy retailers account for and bill energy users. At present, the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) rules mean that local electricity traders are being charged networks costs that don't apply to them. The AEMC needs to change this rule to make local electricity trading financially viable for those who wish to participate.

The ACT Greens believe that the ACT should prepare for this exciting energy future now.

As such the ACT Greens will:

- » Undertake an investigation into local electricity trading in the ACT through virtual net metering and other mechanism to enable local electricity producers and consumers energy and be credited and debited on the one account.
- » Advocate strongly on behalf of the ACT Government for AEMC rules changes that will make local electricity trading viable in Canberra.

> Medium scale solar

The ACT has regulatory requirements for the installation of solar that are higher than other jurisdictions, and placing a substantially higher financial burden on investors. Solar projects of 100kW are attracting astronomically higher fees for compliance and connection in the ACT than they do in NSW, and this is having a dampening effect on the rate of installation of medium-sized solar systems. Sign off costs from builders and building certifiers run into the thousands and sometimes tens of thousands of dollars, whereas in other jurisdictions like NSW and Victoria, those costs don't exist.

The ACT Greens believe we should review the process for approving solar installations in the ACT with a view to removing the red tape while ensuring that systems are installed safely and grid connections are undertaken properly.



HERITAGE

Valuing Canberra's history

Our plan to protect Canberra's natural, cultural and built heritage.

The ACT Greens value Canberra's history and its importance to our lives and our culture both now and for future generations.

The ACT Greens value Canberra's history and its importance to our lives and our culture both now and for future generations. Heritage is a reflection of our Territory's history - including the more than 3,500 known Aboriginal heritage sites throughout our Territory.

We believe there is a need for a clearly defined vision and 10 year plan for the protection of natural, cultural and built heritage sites - including both Aboriginal and 19th and 20th century European sites.

We also believe that there should be more community consultation to identify heritage places and how they should be protected, and that heritage vision and values should inform urban planning in new developments and in existing suburbs.

> More resources for peak bodies

The Greens will commit additional staff resources for government and non-government peak bodies so they can meet the demands placed on them. We understand that due to under resourcing there is currently a backlog in processing heritage nominations, an urgent need to develop and review Conservation Management Plans and pressure to assess Development Applications.

There are enormous expectations of key non-government heritage groups to provide input on a voluntary basis. The Greens will invest \$300,000 to provide administrative support for government and non-government heritage organisations to:

- » Process nominations and develop conservation management plans for Heritage Housing Precincts;
- » Provide considered heritage input into redevelopment proposals for precincts such as the Yarralumla Brickworks and the Manuka Oval; and
- » Identify, protect and promote Aboriginal cultural knowledge in urban planning and development

> More funding to maintain Heritage Assets

The Greens will commit an additional \$100,000 every year to maintain heritage assets around the city, such as bus stops, light poles, old street signs, and gutter markings, fire hydrants, or post boxes. Many of the physical assets that reflect Canberra's history are currently neglected and are deteriorating.

> Upgrade the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings

With construction of the first stage of light rail underway, planning is underway for a Plaza between the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings.

Unfortunately, these buildings have not been maintained to a standard befitting their heritage significance, or their iconic gateway location.

The ACT Greens will:

» Commit \$500,000 towards a grants program for the restoration and upkeep of the Sydney and Melbourne buildings in a co-investment model with willing owners. This could include painting, paving, lighting and signage.

> An ACT history and heritage display centre

Canberra needs a safe and centralised repository to store objects and ACT publications and records. This could potentially include an education and display centre, cafe, shop and administration and meeting space for heritage organisations.

The ACT Greens will:

» Fund a feasibility study and explore options for a history and heritage display centre, including indigenous heritage.

An ACT history and heritage display centre could be located in a number of places including the Blundells Cottage precinct or the Lyneham Flats, Northbourne Avenue for an architectural heritage museum and potentially house voluntary heritage organisations or space for the Government Architect.

> Heritage listing of the central national area and inner hills

The Greens support the national heritage listing of Canberra's central national area and the inner hills. This will protect sites of significant heritage importance while providing a framework for future development, and will included a specific reference to the Griffin's Plan.

The ACT Greens will progress negotiations with the Commonwealth to secure the heritage listing of Canberra's central national area and the inner hills.



Responding to Bushfire Risk

An investment in firefighting

Our \$10 million plan to respond to the increased bushfire & emergency risk in the ACT.

Global warming is increasing bushfire danger weather in the ACT which creates an increased risk of bushfires. The fire season is starting earlier and running for longer and will continue to lengthen into the future.

Modelling suggests that by 2030, the number of professional firefighters in Australia will need to increase by between 67% and 83% (depending on how much our climate changes) to keep pace with increased population, asset value, and fire danger weather. In the ACT the projected required increase is between 37% and 97%.¹

The ACT Greens are committed to addressing the increased bushfire risks presented by global warming, ensure effective bushfire management, and to ensure we have a well equipped and effective firefighting force.

We want our emergency services to be well resourced, coordinated and supported to meet the needs of the ACT community, and for the ACT community to be prepared for the risks of living in a bushfire prone landscape.

That's why the ACT Greens will invest \$10 million dollars to:

- » Support additional fire fighting staff over the next 4 years to respond to bushfires and other emergencies;
- » Purchase a new aerial pumper and a Hazmat/breathing apparatus appliance;
- » Establish a key stakeholder roundtable to discuss traditional fire management in Namadgi National Park; and
- » Ensure key stakeholders - including Emergency Services professionals and volunteers - are closely included in decisions such as the structure of emergency agencies and emergency service planning (such as bushfire zones).

> More Firefighters

As global warming increases bushfire risk in the ACT, and as our population grows, increased

¹ Lesley Hughes and Will Steffen (Climate Council of Australia), "Be Prepared: Climate Change and the ACT Bushfire Threat", 2014. <http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/a56c563caa5bb336050ed88c60dba7e4.pdf>; NIEIR, "Firefighters and climate change: The human resources dimension of adapting to climate change. (UFU Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications' Inquiry into recent trends and preparedness for extreme weather events), 2013.

firefighting staff and resources are needed to keep the community safe from fires and emergencies. Existing firefighters are already undertaking large amounts of overtime to meet demand.

The Greens are also committed to ensuring that firefighters are appointed to fill the positions already funded in the current budget.

> New firefighting equipment

ACT firefighters need specialist equipment to respond to emergencies and are in need of a second aerial firefighting vehicles, and an additional Hazmat response vehicle. The Greens would provide funding for the purchase of both an aerial pumper (which can be used as a pumper and an aerial device) as well as a Hazmat/ breathing apparatus appliance.

> Traditional fire management

The ACT Bushfire Council, established after the 2003 bushfires, includes representatives from professional and volunteer firefighters as well as rural and conservation interests.

Over the past decade the Council has developed the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, which aims for the best balance possible between protection of life and property and conservation of biodiversity. In working towards joint management of Namadgi National Park with the ACT Government and traditional owners of the land, it has become evident that there are

conflicting policies around fire management techniques that should or could be used in the area.

This is a complex policy area that the Greens believe needs broader stakeholder discussion, commencing with a roundtable.